



9TH PROVINCIAL CONGRESS DECLARATION

GAUTENG

28 February- 2 March 2022

Boksburg

Declaration:

“32 years of working class consciousness, defending workers’ rights and building a self-sustainable union”

We, the delegates of the 09th Gauteng Provincial Congress from all ten (10) Locals representing more than forty thousand (40 000) members from within the South African Police Service [SAPS], the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) and Traffic institutions have gathered here at the Birchwood hotel and Conference in Boksburg from the 28th of February to the 02nd of March 2022.

This 9th Provincial Congress convened amidst the enormous global conflict with reference to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and its allied forces. We convened over the past three days under the theme “32 Years of Working Class Consciousness, Defending Workers Rights and Building a Self - Sustainable Union”. The 9th Provincial Congress was also graced by the presence of POPCRU National Office Bearers, former Office Bearers, and guests from the Alliance; the African National Congress (ANC), the South African Communist Party (SACP) and our beloved federation – the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). The presentations by the comrades have empowered the deliberations in this congress.

We were also addressed by representatives from all the three sectors where we organize i.e. the Deputy Provincial Commissioner of SAPS, DCS’s Regional Head of Cooperative Services and the MEC for Gauteng Community Safety. The congress acknowledged the fact that, while relations with some of the departments are not at their best, we commit to intensify efforts to work with the leadership of the departments to better the conditions of our members.

The congress was robustly engaged on its main mandate informed by these specific and strategic organisational tasks, which were:-

- a) Deepening of engagements on the core challenges confronting us in the current conjuncture in delivering quality membership services;
- b) Assessing the current balance of forces to march towards achieving a socialist future;
- c) Strengthening of the collective leadership and capacity to build unity organizationally; and
- d) Consolidating all the gains to improve the quality of lives and excellent working conditions of the members.

We had energetic deliberations, vigorous engagements at the various Commissions and in plenary. We further appreciated a line of march presented from the previous resolutions adopted by the 08th Provincial Congress which has provided a vivid reflection that the organisational strength lies in our quest to achieve unity of purpose. Our Programme of Action emanating from the 08th Provincial Congress was a commitment to achieve the ideals of the National Democratic Revolution based on the common principles of “Worker Control, Worker Democracy, Transparency and accountability” to all membership as per our slogan which says “A POPCRU member is our Priority”.

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This August 09th Provincial Congress confirmed our commitment to build a self-sustainable and self-reliant organization with the Province informed by our national strategic mandate. It is on this basis that we reaffirmed that organisational discipline and unity of the Province is sacrosanct.

It is within this exposition that we recommit ourselves to improved membership service delivery and declare that;

- The unity of the Alliance is sacrosanct and that the working class is the motive force of our revolution;
- The African National Congress remains our only hope as the leader of society;
- We reaffirm that the South African Communist Party is the vanguard of the workers and the poor and that it must be strengthened through our financial support i.e. all shop stewards at the local level must contribute by way of monthly stop orders;
- The Party needs to recognise its comprehensive vanguard character, in that it is vanguard of the whole of the working class and requires its total mobilisation behind its vision in order to guarantee a path to socialism and not only secure allegiance of the unionised, urbanised and politicised working class, its formations and institutions;
- We shall continue to deepen our class analysis and characterisation of the international situation and the balance of forces, and to strengthen our ideological clarity on the challenges and possibilities for the advancement of the NDR.
- We shall ensure that we actively contribute to the development of a radical programme for the second phase of post-1994 transition.
- We build new and innovative platforms through which we can advance and popularise the ideological bearings of the union as a Marxist-Leninist trade union.
- We ensure that the constitutional structures of our union internalise and integrate political and ideological training at all levels of the union, including the PECs and NEC.
- The union must infuse the effort to hegemonise our perspective in our daily actions of organising workers to the ranks of the union.
- In cooperation with the SACP, improve on the work of comprehensive ideological training of members and shop stewards.
- We deepen political consciousness of our members to make out of them agents of revolutionary change while working with the Party as a critical component to the attainment of such an objective.
- Promote and deepen the practice of popular education in the union so as to create a second layer of ideologues to propagate the ideas of the working class.
- Further collaboration with other international partners must be explored.
- Aggressively educate our members against the values, ethos and principles of the Neo-managerialism such as PPPs, outsourcing, privatisation, agentisation, etc. – which run counter to building a developmental state.
- Reaffirm Marxism-Leninism as our theoretical guide to revolutionary action.
- We will launch relentless struggles against the primary enemy of the working class – capital – to ensure that its domination of our economy and national politics is challenged and eventually dislodged. This we can only achieve if we succeed to build class-consciousness and the fighting capacity of the working class.
- We must develop and improve our own internal media platforms to support the overall struggle for socialism and to build a strong workplace organisation that consistently challenges the liberal agenda in all its manifestations.

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- There should be a significant improvement of infrastructure in schools/institutions in order to maximize the opportunities of the 4th Industrial Revolution to learners/ children,
- The higher education institutions must be compelled to decolonize the curriculum in order to innovate in response and management of technologies brought about by the 4th Industrial Revolution,
- All Seta-Labour representatives must take the initiative to partner with all the other representatives serving in the SETAs to start playing a pivotal role in determining, developing and implementing relevant and agile training, developmental and educational programs to assist the workers in being re-skilled, multi-skilled and up-skilled in order to help migrate and integrate into the new world work especially the youth and unemployed,
- SETAs, Employers, Government and Labour must work closely in developing programs enabling them to monitor how the future world of work will affect workers and the implementation of programs put in place to support those that may be adversely affected,
- Funds must be made available for workers that could be negatively affected by the changes in the new world of work.
- South Africa should draw key lessons from the international experience in order to effectively tackle the challenge of youth unemployment.
- Demand the tabling of the government's macroeconomic policies for review as part of addressing and finding solutions to the deepening socioeconomic crises.
- A new policy-directive bias to improving conditions of South Africans as a priority needs urgent consideration as a basis for development and growth.
- To call for the meaningful local procurement commitment to ensure job creation.
- Action must be taken swiftly to those involved in corruption by accelerating disciplinary processes,
- The alliance must mobilise communities and society around issues of corruption, and position itself in a leadership role with respect to a culture of exposing corruption and rewarding whistle blowers within the organization,
- The infrastructure of the entire judicial system must be improved to ensure efficient and adequate utilisation of resources.
- More public correctional institutions must be built in rural and farming reduce overcrowding, and to ensure centres become self-sustainable;
- We shall embark on a campaign aimed at integrating and realigning the policing systems, culture and methodology within the South African context.
- We shall engage government through the sectors where we organise to strengthen the current legislation on sentences of people found guilty of killing Police officers and to improve on the compensation announced to sustain a better life for the dependants.
- The government should strategise the operations in deeply dealing with cases involving Police vis-à-vis Police killings.
- We reaffirm the resolution of the 8th Congress for the full implementation of NHI
- POPCRU must continue campaigning for the full implementation of National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme
- We shall conduct internal popular education on the NHI as a way of equipping and empowering our members;
- We will intensify our campaign to transform and review GEMS; so that it plays its historic development role in the provisioning of health; this must include an end to the outsourcing of its administration and the huge stipends given to board members for attending meetings.
- We must continue enhancing capacity at all levels to consciously sharpen leadership tools.
- We must radically implement effective organisational leadership development at Local and Institutional level.

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- We must elect well-grounded leadership to enhance service delivery to our members.
- We must continue to build capacity at Provincial, Local and Institutional level in order to consciously sharpen leadership tools.
- We must elect potential leadership to enhance service delivery to our members at all levels.
- Strengthen centralized collective bargaining and defend the hard earned gains with a view of attaining more benefits under the difficult economic outlook, anxiousness and uncertainty on the future of work against the backdrop of the 4th Industrial Revolution.
- We must ensure the establishment of strategic partnerships by all structures that are aimed at promoting sound labour peace and social justice to effectively use the limited infrastructure and resources for maximum output through collaboration and partnerships given that there are overlaps in mandates and that these structures often serve the same interest and constituencies,
- The government as a matter of urgency finds innovative ways of dealing with the unsustainable DNA backlog especially relating to sexual offences crimes;
- Gender Based Violence be officially declared a crime against humanity and a pandemic;

We further declare as we conclude this Provincial Parliament of workers on suicide by Police Officers that;

- Social services at the disposal of the government must be activated as part of preventative and curative programs.
- The attendance of such programs must be mandatory and
- The department should have an early warning system to detect suicidal tendencies amongst its members.

Further declare on the International that:

- The BRICS should expedite the establishment of its own rating agency to monitor economic performance and limit obstacles to growth as well as to counter the propagandistic western rating agencies with scientific economic data and analysis. Resuscitate South African government participation in BRICS and its counterparts.
- Support a reform of the United Nations Security Council that will: Ensure adequate and effective representation for Africa and other regions in the South.
- South Africa's position on Russia and Ukraine should be consistent with the principle for the respect human right and peaceful resolution of International Conflict.
- COSATU to intensify and strengthen its support of PUDEMO in Swaziland by advancing campaigns that will democratize Swaziland.
- Reaffirms support for a free and just PALESTINE. The embassy of Israel should be closed until people of Palestine realise their freedom.

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The Provincial Congress further dealt with issues of leadership consolidation and accordingly and constitutionally elected the following comrades:

Chairperson: **Tinti Lusenga**

Deputy Chairperson: **Mavela Solly Mathe**

Secretary: **Lerata Motsiri**

Deputy Secretary: **Nomthandazo Makaya**

Treasurer: **Rashie Mankoe**

As delegates of this 09th Provincial Congress delegates, we commit that the resolutions adopted here shall be communicated and implemented to all structures and members of POPCRU in the Province.

This declaration is thus adopted at POPCRU Gauteng's 09th Provincial Congress convened from the 28th February to 02nd March 2022 at Birchwood hotel in Boksburg.



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