



9TH PROVINCIAL CONGRESS DECLARATION

LIMPOPO

7- 9 March 2022

Bela Bela

Declaration:

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

We are members of POPCRU in Limpopo Province, gathered at Aventura Resort in Bela-Bela for the 9th Provincial Congress of the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union, starting from the 7th to the 9th March 2022. We are delegates from the nine (9) POPCRU Locals in the Province and All structures of the organization in the Province. We were joined by components of the Alliance, the African National Congress and the Congress of South African Trade Unions. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the sectors where POPCRU organizes; The Department of Justice and Correctional Services, the South African Police Services and the Member of the Executive Council for Transport and Community Safety. We were joined by social partners and a community development organization, the Safer South Africa Foundation.

The Congress noted that it was taking place in the days that straddle the day of International Women’s day on the 8th of March 2022, which is an important day in the calendar of the struggles towards gender equality.

The Congress considered a number of reports and inputs that were made in the meeting to assess whether, using the Marxist tools of analysis, organizationally we are still on track to service members of the organization and whether we are politically geared to address the broader political and socioeconomic interests of members and the working class.

Political Discussions

The Congress noted that we are in the second stage of our revolution characterized by civil disobedience and disorder. The congress noted that the organization needs to work within the Federation and the broader alliance to ensure the revolution does not stagnate but continues on the trajectory towards the final and third stage of the revolution. We need to further debate the role of the Alliance in the revolution as well as to determine who should continue to lead the alliance in this revolutionary path.

INTERNATIONAL BALANCE OF FORCES

We should relate with nations on the basis of common ideologies and forging solidarity with working class formations in other parts of the world. The congress impresses that relations should be ideological should be underpinned by the quest for freedom in all the countries, whether the freedom of the people in Swaziland, Western Sahara, Palestine or Russia defending itself against the aggression by NATO. We further called for the lifting of the six decade long blockade against the Cuban people, for choosing a particularly socialist outlook in their revolution.

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DOMESTIC BALANCE OF FORCES

The Congress condemns the privatization of the State-Owned enterprises and agrees on involvement in campaigns that seek to stop these actions, which are apparently led by a consolidation of capital in an attempt to assert total control of society.

SANCO

The Congress observed the state that SANCO finds itself in, and encouraged members and delegates to continuously work for the restoration of SANCO's former glory as the premier community structure in the Mass Democratic Movement. This will enable the movement to curtail counterrevolutionary tendencies that seek to reverse the gains of our revolution.

African National Congress

The Congress also noted the state of the movement in the Province and committed itself to working towards the renewal and rebuilding of the organization. It further said to reach that point it must do a proper characterization of the organization so that we must be able to return to its true character as leader of our Alliance and the leader of society.

In doing that we should subscribe to the following principles;

- We shall align ourselves with leaders whose political and moral rectitude is beyond reproach. In our analysis of the discussions that are taking place in terms of leadership we believe that the view of the leaders led by Dickson Masemola as Chairperson and Soviet Lekganyane as Secretary.
- We should advance principles that seek to renew and unite the movement.
- We shall not associate with leaders who are tainted by allegations of corruptions and criminality.

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

The Congress welcomed the report in terms of the South African Communist party and welcomed the recent Congress of the SACP and resolved to encourage members to participate in party activities, build workplace units and branches, and subscribe to the party stop order campaign to ensure the party is able to sustain itself. We also congratulate the newly elected leadership of the SACP in Limpopo Province.

CONGRES OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS

The congress takes place four weeks after the Federation has held its Congress on the 10th and 11th of February 2022. The Congress committed itself, as preparations for the 14th National Congress are underway; to seizing the moment to participate in all the activities of Federation to deepen the advancement of the interests of the working class and to defend the gains of the workers.

POLICING

Our point of departure is that Police cannot the function of the police alone but society should strengthen its community structures that are involved with policing. This includes reviving and strengthening of the Secretariat for the Police. The congress noted the inadequate presence of the Police on the ground and reiterated the organization's call for trained members to be redeployed from offices to do policing work on the ground. This should enhance the safety of Police working in our communities. In the same vein we should do a study of the Police and citizen ratio in our

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country as the population has been growing with negligible growth in the number of police officials. We are pledging to also work with community based organizations that seek to create safer communities in our province and the entire country.

POLICE KILLINGS

The Congress condemns the continued scourge of Police Killings in our Province and the entire country. This reflects badly on our society which is indifferent to the plight of our members in blue. We resolve to campaign for the promulgation of new criminal laws which seek to deal with this blight in our society.

CORRECTIONS

Congress resolved to engage management and political structures to have a better Corrections system that achieves real rehabilitation of offenders of the Law. For that purposes we should ensure that Future correctional centers are built in the rural areas to assist in the development of rural areas and job creation. This would also assist in skills development in the rural areas. Congress further called for the speedy resolution of all unresolved workplace matters, including the Shift System and Promotion policy in Correctional Services.

NATIONALIZATION OF TRAFFIC

The Congress notes that the longstanding resolution for the Nationalization of Traffic is not yet realized. We are going to work hard to ensure that all programs for this resolution are realized. The Nationalization would create a new national Law Enforcement System in the direction towards a single Police service. In that regard a new salary structure, organogram and conditions of service are envisaged.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The Congress noted with much concern the prevalence of Gender Based Violence in our Society. The Congress noted that we should not react to the more prominent violence but should deal with all forms of violence in their various manifestations.

GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CREATE JOBS

We are of the view there should be a deliberate state intervention the Economy to create jobs, this should include the turning around of the ailing State Owned Enterprises and a real Public Works Programmed which serve as a stimulant to the Economy. Congress doesn't agree with the view that says it is not the Government's responsibility to create jobs but rather Government should play an active role in job creation.

TRANSFORMATION OF THE JUDICIARY

We acknowledge that there have been changes in the complexion of the judicial system since the advent of democracy in 1994. There is some representation of the cross section of South Africans in the judiciary. However we believe there's a need of a thoroughgoing transformation of the judiciary in the country as this institution still has relics from colonialism and apartheid. It should be at forefront of transforming society in the third arm of the state rather functioning as a preserver of privilege.

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ATTACK ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The Congress takes place against a background where Government Employees have not received a significant salary increase for a period of 3 years. There is a 3 year salary agreement which was undermined by Government which took it to the courts, with major setback results for workers. The court judgment has major implications for collective bargaining in the country, as we see it as setting precedence for sectors even in the Private Sector that they can conclude a collective agreement and later renege from it. We are going to be engaged in programs that seek to reverse this status quo and to ensure that what is due to workers is paid.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Membership

The organization has experienced all the challenges were experienced by the country and the world during the period under review. This included employers not filling vacancies left by members as well as the effects of covid-19 pandemic. The organization's membership dropped from 10600 to the 8400 between the last congress and the 9th Provincial Congress. We commit ourselves to increase our membership to 10 000 by the next Congress.

Member and leader development

A union with a cadreship of well capacitated members and members is poised to be in a better position to consolidate and deepen the workers' struggles and defend workers gains. It is with this realization that we commit to continue with membership training and development.

Congress Decision on leadership

The congress elected Leadership that will have the responsibility to carry out the Resolutions of the Congress. The following Leaders were elected:

Chairperson: **Nelson Maisela**

Deputy Chairperson: **Getruth Malungane**

Secretary: **Hangwani Mashao**

Deputy Secretary: **Johanna Motau**

Treasurer: **Phuti Mabotja**

We therefore conclude that the discussions, debates and the resolutions adopted at this august occasion – the POPCRU Limpopo Provincial Congress, have provided an intense reflection of our strategic position. The outcomes of the Provincial Congress must be implemented as a matter of urgency in order to realise the aspirations of our members.

Long Live POPCRU Long live!

Forward to workers Unity!

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