



13TH NATIONAL CONGRESS NEWSLETTER

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13th National Congress Newsletter



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INTRODUCTION

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (NEHAWU) is convening its 13th National Congress from 26 to 29 June 2026 at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre in Boksburg, Gauteng Province, under the theme: "Advance Workplace Organisation to Defend Collective Bargaining, Heighten Class Consciousness and Advance Internationalism."



Advance Workplace Organisation to Defend Collective Bargaining, Heighten Class Consciousness and Advance Internationalism



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Advance Workplace

Organisation to

Defend Collective

Bargaining,

Heighten Class

Consciousness and

Advance

Internationalism

As the highest decision-making structure of the union, the congress attended by more than 750 delegates drawn from all structures of the union and other fraternal organizations from South Africa and Internationally.

The opening day saw the congress receiving addresses from the Premier of Gauteng, Comrade Panyaza Lesufi, NEHAWU President, Comrade Mike Shingange, the African National Congress (ANC) represented by First Deputy Secretary-General, Comrade Nomvula Mokonyane, and the keynote address was delivered by the General Secretary of the South African Communist Party (SACP), Comrade Solly Mapaila.



Welcome to Gauteng – Gauteng Premier, Comrade Panyaza Lesufi



The Gauteng Premier, Comrade Panyaza Lesufi, conveyed his profound honour and privilege at being invited to welcome the 13th National Congress of NEHAWU to Gauteng Province. He welcomed all delegates and guests to Gauteng and expressed confidence that the congress would be successful. He further informed congress that the gathering was taking place a day after the Gauteng Provincial Legislature had tabled and adopted a R170 billion provincial budget, which received the support of the overwhelming majority of political parties in the Legislature, with only the DA and FF Plus opposing its adoption.

Comrade Lesufi cautioned congress about the growing consolidation of anti-transformation forces, arguing that these forces have become increasingly organised and influential within the

political landscape, including within the Government of National Unity. He expressed concern that these forces have reached a point where they seek to dictate to the President of the Republic on matters relating to the appointment of Cabinet Ministers. In this regard, he emphasised that the period of internal divisions and factionalism within the progressive movement must come to an end, as the current balance of forces demands the unity and cohesion of all progressive formations in defence of the democratic revolution and the transformation agenda.

The Premier further reflected on the changing political environment, noting that it was previously unimaginable that communities such as those in Soweto would openly receive leaders of parties historically opposed to the transformation agenda. He also raised



Welcome to Gauteng – Gauteng Premier, Comrade Panyaza Lesufi



concern over the role of major corporations, including Betway and Capitec, which, despite deriving much of their business from black people and the working class, were reportedly providing significant financial support to the Democratic Alliance. He urged NEHAWU to consider developing a focused campaign to expose and challenge these developments.

In concluding his address, Comrade Lesufi stressed that those who aspire to lead the National Democratic Revolution must demonstrate unwavering commitment to the transformation programme. He

asserted that any leadership seeking the support of progressive forces must unequivocally support the implementation of the Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Act, the National Health Insurance (NHI), and the imperative of land restitution and equitable land redistribution.

He concluded by once again extending a warm welcome to all delegates to the Province of Gauteng and wished the 13th National Congress every success in its deliberations and outcomes.



Opening Address by President - Comrade Mike Shingange



Chairperson of the session, national office bearers of the union, comrades representing organisations of the alliance, fraternal organisations and their representatives, members of the national executive committee of our union, our international guests and, most importantly, comrades delegates to the 13th national congress of NEHAWU receive our revolutionary greetings on this important gathering of our union. The union has gathered once again to perform the necessary work that guarantees its endurance and sustainability. The congress is not a ceremony to merely perform and fulfil constitutional and procedural actions as required by our rules of operation but is an organisational and political process to determine concretely if the organisation remains loyal to its foundational mandate even in the context of the contemporary dynamics.

Trade union character and dynamics. The past and present

The union does not become a new entity simply because it has surpassed a decade of existence, or two, or even three. The time itself is not the qualitative determinant of what the

organisation is and what it ought to be. The time is a signifier of motion but not necessarily of outcome. Outcome is determined by concrete material conditions reflecting either fundamental change, superficial change, stagnation or regression relative to predetermined strategic objectives of the organisation. The congress is an opportunity to reflect not only the state of the organisation and its programme but to lay bare the state of the union as a component part of the working class and the working class movement. In that sense, the congress is concerned not only with the internal matters of the union, but also with the matters of the working class more broadly. The working class beyond the walls of this congress venue and even beyond the sectors where NEHAWU is organised, has direct interest in the substance and results of this congress. The congress and union therefore must take an expansive perspective rather than an inward looking narrow perspective.

We must ask questions about our allegiance and faithfulness to the historical mandate of NEHAWU as a public sector union with an industrial orientation cutting beyond narrow

crafts, seeking, instead, to be the ultimate expression of a class union that transcends sectarianism, building a deeper class solidarity while pursuing anti-neoliberal transformational objectives. In this congress, convened almost 40 years since the launch of the union, the question must be asked whether the union, in practice, remains rooted in the principle of worker control and whether the proliferation of the middle strata in the wider public sector and therefore in its ranks has birthed new managerial cohort that has negatively affected the class DNA of the trade union as class entity therefore giving rise to corporate managerialism in its leadership and perspective.

The question arises as to whether the managerialism that would have seeped into the operations of the trade union organisation has now begun to express itself as critical part of its leadership orientation, effectively putting to question the strategic orientation of the trade union organisation involving its perspective and its relationship with its mass base; the working class which is supposed to be the driving force of the revolution it pursues.

The resolution of this question will manifest in how the shop steward has been affected and how the grassroots environment and workplace organisation and its manner of organising has been bastardised by this class phenomenon to degenerate into bureaucratic formulations relying on legalism rather than on popular working class power as means of organisational expression. To understand this altering of the political and trade union environment and its impact on the organisation assists us to gauge our modern condition in its concrete expression. To deepen the complexity even further the congress must consider the evolution of the objective conditions governing the interface between trade union organisation and integration of working class leaders into formal political power structures. This reality presents as question of objective personnel integration, democratic representation and participation; while on the other hand it presents as a political and moral question related to ideological assimilation and political incorporation of the working class in bourgeois ecosystem.

In observing and understanding the inevitable crosspollination between the political organisation and trade union structures in the

post 94 era, the question also arises as to whether the burgeoning of trade union aristocracy as a strata served to water down the organisational orientation organisational orientation of the trade union and its radical ideological inclination; leading to the proliferation of a shop steward whose priorities are contested between his political ambitions and the burden to serve members of the union. The capacity to differentiate between representation or participation in the political process of workers and ideological and its moral assimilation into bourgeois logic is key to understanding this historical dynamic. That understanding makes the difference between class collaboration as the lowest form of class degeneration and class orientation as the highest form of revolutionary activity of the working class in a capitalist society. Based on this understanding we can explain and understand the multi-dimensional expression of the working class at this time.

It can be argued that the working class is increasingly less and less organised. It can be equally argued that the working class is less and less conscientised relative to its class needs and objective demands. It can be legitimately argued equally that the trade union organisation has traded its mass base for the political influence of the few at its highest echelon and engineered its system to allow for expansion of this phenomenon. It can be argued that the trade union movement has made political choices that are rooted not on in a visceral critique of the statutes quo, politically and economically, but has been leaning mostly on interest of the elite among themselves.

The working class has found itself at the mercy of the elite and elite shop stewards among them. Moving to 40 years of NEHAWU and 33 years of South African democracy these are issues on the table for the working class. These questions must be answered with the view to preserve the trade union organisation as the only shield for the working class. This also serves to eliminate counter revolutionary elements within its structures.

The trade union is required to perform an internal observation so as to determine its position relating to its mandate and its application at the present time. The preservation and the revitalisation of the trade

union is an unavoidable task.

Organisations and institutions of the people, unions included, are not the property of the leaders that lead them at a given time. Revolutionary organisations are a heritage of the people, of the working class, the motive forces of the revolutionary process. The implication of this logic is that leaders themselves are not the owners of the organisations; on the contrary, they only momentarily hold these institutions in trust as a legacy of and in the name of their ancestors and, at the same time on behalf of the future generations; the inheritors of the legacy. The leaders are accountable to the history of the revolution and accountable to the future of the revolution. The present time is always a transition characterised by the task to deepen and elevate the revolutionary capacity of the organisation.

When we deepen and elevate the revolutionary capacity of the organisations of the people, we fulfil the aspirations of the founders; prove our own worth as the present generation, at the same time, prepare a worthy inheritance for the future generations.

When each generation loses this perspective, it inevitably creates conditions for the negation of the cause for which we organise. The price of the negation of the peoples cause if the beginning of their adversity, the commencement of their suffering born of a failure to be loyal to the task of the revolution. The revolution, by its very nature, is an act of giving than an act of taking. Revolutionaries build for others than accumulate for themselves.

Each generation receives what was built and handed over by their predecessor, and yet is immediately tasked with building that which will be inherited by the succeeding generation. At each time in history, the main task the revolution is perpetual transitional work of construction of the future. These instances of reflection, as this congress, allows us in this revolutionary organisation to ask ourselves the questions about the nature of our work at this moment in history. These questions include the extent and distance travelled in of the prosecution of our revolutionary task, the state of the organisational infrastructure required to prosecute the revolutionary task, the correlation

of forces required to build the revolutionary programme, the ideological integration of the revolutionary forces relating to the essential revolutionary tasks in this moment in history and the objective terrain in which we prosecute the revolutionary process.

The congress is tasked with evaluating the implementation of what has organically emerged as a strategic thematic programme of the union the 'Close Ranks Defend The Base". This is to analyse its impact and determine if its strategic intent has been realised in the manner the union has operated and carried out its content. This is also to understand if the concept itself has been sufficiently understood and whether that supposed understanding could be proven by the activity of the structures of the union at different levels beginning with the work place.

To understand the strategic intent and important design elements of the programme is key so as to avert the risk of minimising the programme to events and ceremonies of leadership. The CRDB programme would be a failure when it does not lead to a systematic understanding, by the union itself, of the workplace and its peculiarities of such a workplace, a systematic understanding of a sector and its specific organisational and transformational issues, a systematic shop steward driven and campaign centred series of activities rooted in the workplace, a thoroughgoing organisational integration and solidarity of workplaces in the same area that campaign on similar matters thereby building and so on. The union in this congress must ask itself the questions as the effectiveness of this programme among our shop stewards on the ground, among the subnational leaders as shop stewards themselves overseeing the engine drivers of the union in the space that matters the most; the workplace. In line with this intent, the congress must make a strategic determination on the sustainability and indeed the possible improvement of the CRDB as a concept and as a union programme. The union cannot generalise on these matters, on the contrary, we need to be specific because the challenges of workers are not general but rather specific and concrete.

We must debate and ask the questions as to what elements of the CRDB do we need to keep

(having understood the key elements), what objectives of the CRDB do we need to enhance (having understood the elements), what features of the CRDB that we need to expand and what ideas do we insist on laying as a foundation of the CRDB going forward (having understood the features).

State of the NDR and the alliance

The congress must undergo intensive political work to position the union at this political moment in important time in history. The union through this congress has the added responsibility to fine-tune its political strategy fully conscious of the shifting balance of forces. The political work of the union relates to how we position ourselves as an organization relative to our own transformational objectives as represented by the national democratic revolution, which continues to be our programme. In that spirit, this national congress must make an analysis of the evolving political dynamics since the 12th national congress at the beginning of the term ending today and the meaning of those dynamics to us strategically as well as the implications for how they relate to the federation, the alliance, the working class and society as a whole. In this regard, we make the fundamental observation in this congress that the NDR is still, and even more so now, in a state of stagnation, uncertainty and imminent danger of decisive defeat.

Having said this, it is also our view that the revolution has gone beyond stagnation and has entered in the territory of objective regression and reversal. To personify this reality the ideological and political discourse continues to display an increasingly unfavourable outlook towards the NDR, towards the progressive forces, towards the transformational agenda and towards the radical thought and perspective. We convene this congress in that context.

The dominant position of the conservative politics has transcended the historically distinct organisational divide between revolutionaries and conservatives and asserted itself in the internal workings of the progressive movement and its organisational rank and file thereby usurping the popular left organizations and institutions with a an ideological formulation

antithetical to revolutionary thought. The increasing depoliticisation of the political discourse reflects this ideological shift and ideological stagnation; the governmentalisation of the progressive movement's political positions reflects the watering down and bastardisation of our political strategy, the increased political collaboration between the bourgeoisie's political elites and formal political institutions of "progressive movement" serves as a perfect summary of the strategic and ideological crisis of revolutionary tendency. The political justification of the GNU finds its practical, political and ideological backing from this reality. The alliance, as political body of the progressive agenda, is besieged by this political and ideological crisis. The congress of the federation in 2022 as well as the 2022 SACP congresses are a testimony of the ideological push back against revolutionary tendencies and partial integration of its forces into the logic of non-progressive politics and forces.

As one of the interventions against this trajectory, the left axis of the alliance, with the SACP playing a leading role has consistently canvassed for the reconfiguration of the alliance. The ANC has consistently rejected this position. The ANC in its official meeting in 2024 has rejected this position until it was inconvenient for them. Since this time, the ANC has effectively deepened its collaborationist posture reaching the highest stage of this crisis as represented by a GNU imposed on the alliance. The union has consistently advanced a thoroughgoing critique of this trajectory.

To this effect, in 2024, we said the following "the fact that ANC has resolved against participating and leading our proposed reconfigured alliance as our common political platform towards the 2024 National elections means that the ANC rejects their responsibility to lead a popular working class centred project in defence of the NDR and rather chooses a status quo liberal political agenda. The ANC rejection of the reconfigured alliance as forwarded by the left axis at the time we are politically in the history of South Africa reflects the important fact that the ANC has a dramatically different perspective about the future of the national transformation project and even the future of politics in South Africa more generally. This disjuncture of perspective is important and notable in the history of the ANC, SACP, COSATU and the wider

progressive movements of our country; it is so important in fact it actually redefines the political relations of the alliance.

The redefining of political relations between and among the organisations of the alliance is founded on this clear inability and unwillingness of the liberation movement to cooperate with the working class axis of the alliance in reframing the medium term political program against the backdrop of the increasing political and economic suppression of interests of the motive forces of the NDR. The redefining of political relations of the alliance encompasses the fact that the political relations can no longer be defined as cooperative or mutually beneficial for the class forces that compose it.

On the contrary, and in relation to the recent strategic contradictions, the political relations in the alliance have taken on a more combative posture with the ANC increasingly and decisively wielding its access to formal levers of power to leverage a political push against workers short-term demands. The political relations of the alliance thus can no longer be counted on as they are to offer the proletariat the elementary political advantages that it historically could guarantee on our short-term interests. The victories that can be won in the alliance will be a result of strenuous efforts of combative struggles on the battlefield and not a general consensus built on shared ideological perspective of transformative values of common politics”.

The legitimacy and effectiveness of any national revolution hinges on the ability of the progressive forces and their organisations as well as its leadership core in particular to rally the motive forces behind such a revolution and unite the country and a people as a whole behind clear developmental objectives rooted on distinctly articulated progressive principles and programme. That programme has ideological substance. It is our argument that in the context of an alliance in its current state an argument cannot be made that the revolution is advancing as required. Systematically speaking, it is clear that there is now a historical need to reposition the working class in the prosecution of the national democratic revolution as a key driving force acting to protect the revolutionary intent of the transformation project as well as guarantee its future. Part of thinking about that

repositioning the working class is the idea of mobilising the broader popular classes into a broad front actively campaigning to reclaim its position as a leading force in the implementation of the National Democratic Revolution under new conditions given the evident shifts in balance of power in the formal political structures.

The resolution of the union to support the Party in its electoral programme finds its grounding on this particular understanding. The manner of political, ideological and strategic degeneration of the ANC as the supposed leader of all progressive forces engaged in national transformation creates a concrete and pressing need to consider an alternative way forward that builds on the historical victories of the progressive forces to construct a new platform that unites the progressive forces that are now under a real threat of being driven asunder to a point of political obliteration by the enemy camp. The union must discuss the programme not as a distant dream but as an urgent task required to rescue the revolution.

The congress convenes at a time of the obvious challenges for the alliance. Among the challenges is the rise of a punitive attitude towards those who are associated with the Communist Party. The position of the SACP to contest elections in its own name has brought to the surface an anti SACP sentiment from among the ranks of the movement in general and the ANC in particular; indeed an anti-communist sentiment. This anti-communist sentiment comes about as an automated response founded in the apparent belief that the SACP has limited rights to organisational autonomy and political independence in the context of the alliance. This sentiment lays bare the existence of clear conservativeness perspective that looks at communism as a threat to the dominant political interests. The congress must condemn the isolation and punishment of communists for being communists.

Fragmentation of the working class

The South African working class is vast and varied. The South African working class has the markings of a South Africa that is divided according to race, region, ethnicity and economic standing. The organisations of the



working class have also been divided by political organisations, which represent different ideological strands. As such, the working class, even among the left organisations, finds itself differentiated between progressive nationalists, communists; pan Africanists of various categories, anarchists and semi anarchist tendencies, Trotskyites and other ideological strands. This extensive ideological differentiation has led to a fractured working class that has had a crisis of internal conflict and completion. The ideological and theoretical tensions between different strands has served to weaken the working class rather than consolidate its power. The working class movement, from trade unions, social organisations to working class political parties has faced a systematic fracturing especially in the post 1994 era.

The fracture is caused by structural factors found in the national make up of South Africa

and South African economy. The fracture is also caused by the organisational complexity of working class formation and its ecosystem. The fracturing also has to do with a complicated ideological composition of the working class movement. At a more subjective level the fracturing has to do with leadership choices, career driven choices and political choices that the working class leadership has opted for, in many instances against the unity and interests of the working class. These short-term choices have been wrapped in ideological clothing when in fact these choices are subjective and self-serving rather than based on class struggle imperatives.

The working class has come to accept the need to close the fracture rather than worsen it. The conference of the left is a step towards this direction. This congress needs to discuss the implications for the union and the federation.



Presentation of CEC Special Resolution on Constitutional Amendments



Advance Workplace

Organisation to

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Internationalism

The General Secretary, Comrade Zola Saphetha presented the Central Executive Committee Special Resolution on Constitutional Amendments to the 12th National Congress. The congress adopted the resolution on constitutional amendments.



ANC Message of Support – 1st Deputy General Secretary, Comrade Nomvula Mokonyane



Delegates

Distinguished guests

Comrades and compatriots

Allow to convey revolutionary greetings and a message of solidarity on behalf of the ANC national officials, the NEC and its entire membership led by Comrade President Cyril Ramaphosa.

I am deeply honoured to address this 13th National Congress of NEHAWU on behalf of the African National Congress. This is a union that has, in every decade of its existence, stood at the frontline of the struggle for working class power, social justice, and the deepening of our democracy.

Comrades, the theme of this Congress, "Advance Workplace Organisation to Defend Collective Bargaining, Heighten Class Consciousness and Advance internationalism," is not merely a slogan inscribed on the banners hung around this hall. It is a call to action and a fundamental

statement about the kind of working class, the kind of nation, and the kind of world that we, as the progressive movement, are determined to build.

This theme comes at a moment when the working class in South Africa and across the globe faces a peculiar and dangerous conjuncture. The architecture of neoliberalism, which has dominated the international political economy for over four decades, is unravelling, but it is not yet defeated.

Capital is restructuring itself through automation, platform work, and financialisation. Authoritarian populism is rising, mobilising workers' grievances against scapegoats while protecting the propertied class. And here at home, the social wage that our democracy has constructed brick by brick is under pressure from a stubborn unemployment crisis, fiscal constraints, and the lingering inequality bequeathed to us by apartheid colonialism.

It is in these perilous times that NEHAWU must find its footing in advancing the interests of the

working class. And it is against this backdrop that the African National Congress is honoured to stand shoulder to shoulder with you.

Comrades, as we navigate the challenges of the day that impact on ordinary South Africans and workers alike, we must pause and take stock of the road we have travelled. Before 1994, the majority of black workers in this country laboured under the most brutal labour regime devised in the twentieth century.

Workers had no right to organise freely. They could be dismissed for joining a union and deported under the pass laws if they raised their voices. African workers in the mines and on the farms lived under master-and-servant statutes that treated human beings as property.

There was no national minimum wage, no paid leave for the majority, no recourse against unfair dismissal, no maternity protection worth the name. This Congress must never forget that picture, because it is against that picture that we must measure the gains of our democracy.

In 1995, only a year into our democracy, this movement and our allies in the labour federation COSATU, crafted the Labour Relations Act. A law that gave constitutional expression to the right of every worker to organise, to bargain collectively, and to strike.

This was the product of struggle, negotiation and class compromise, forged through NEDLAC, the National Economic Development and Labour Council, where workers, employers and government sit as equals to shape social compacts.

The democratic state led by the ANC went further. The Basic Conditions of Employment Act set a floor of rights below which no worker may fall. The Employment Equity Act compels employers to dismantle the racial and gender ladder inherited from apartheid.

The Skills Development Act and the National Skills Fund opened doors to workers historically denied the chance to study and to grow. The Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act, and the Mine Health and Safety Act have entrenched dignity, safety and security in the

workplace.

In 2018, this movement delivered on a long-standing demand of the working class with the introduction of the National Minimum Wage. Today, more than six million low-paid workers, including domestic workers and farm workers who were historically the most exploited and least visible, receive a wage floor reviewed every year.

We acknowledge that the level remains too low to constitute a living wage, but the principle has been established, the institution has been built, and the working class will continue to push that threshold upwards through bargaining and through political struggle.

In the public sector, where NEHAWU is the largest and most influential union, collective bargaining has become an institution. The Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council, the Education Labour Relations Council, the Public Health and Social Development Sectoral Bargaining Council, and the General Public Service Sectoral Bargaining Council are platforms where the wages, conditions and dignity of nearly one and a half million public servants are negotiated. And NEHAWU has been a leading force in every one of them.

Through collective bargaining, we have secured improvements in nursing allowances, in the danger allowance for those who work in our hospitals, in the rural allowance, in the housing allowance, and in progressive pay progression. We have fought, together, for the regularisation of contract workers, for the long-overdue absorption of community health workers into the public service, and for the protection of pension fund benefits against those who would raid them.

We have defended public sector workers against arbitrary outsourcing, and we have insisted that any restructuring of the state must go through bargaining. Comrades, the road ahead is long and tortuous, but we remain determined in advancing the realization of the national democratic revolution.

Collective bargaining today is under siege. We see it in attempts to undermine bargaining outcomes through fiscal arguments and reservation clauses. We see it in the rise of the

gig economy, where platform workers are misclassified as independent contractors to deny them the protections of labour law.

We see it in the abuse of temporary employment services to circumvent permanent employment. We see it in attacks on the right to strike, packaged as concerns about essential services and the economy.

To these attacks, the African National Congress responds without ambiguity. Collective bargaining is a constitutional right, it is a developmental tool, and it is a stabiliser of our economy and a guarantor of social peace.

We will defend it and we will strengthen NEDLAC. We will extend bargaining coverage to the platform economy. We will work with NEHAWU and the federations to ensure that the social wage continues to grow.

The National Health Insurance Act, signed into law in 2024, is itself a fruit of collective struggle in which NEHAWU has played a pivotal role. It will transform the conditions of public health workers, guarantee universal access to quality healthcare, and end the apartheid of healthcare that still divides our country.

We must defend the NHI against those who seek to reverse it, and we must work together to ensure that its implementation protects, rather than displaces, the workers who carry our health system on their shoulders.

The second pillar of your Congress theme calls for the heightening of class consciousness. Comrades, this is perhaps the most urgent task of our time.

Across the world we are witnessing how identity politics weaponised by the right, racism, xenophobia, and the cult of consumption are being deployed to fragment the working class. Algorithms recommend rage. Social media monetises division. Politicians peddle scapegoats - the migrant, the unemployed, the so called "foreigner taking our jobs" - to deflect attention from the real architects of dispossession.

The working class must see through this fog. The struggle of the cleaner in Mthatha is the struggle of the cleaner in Mahikeng. The fight for a living

wage in a hospital in Cape Town is the fight for a living wage in a clinic in Polokwane.

NEHAWU, with your history of political education, is uniquely positioned to lead this work of consciousness-raising. We urge this Congress to recommit to the political schools, shopsteward councils, study circles and cultural programmes that have made

NEHAWU a school of the working class.

The ANC stands ready to partner with you in joint political education programmes, especially with the young workers, who are the future of our movement and the most vulnerable to the demagoguery of our time.

Class consciousness in our context also demands an honest reflection on the conduct of those entrusted with leadership in the state, in the unions, and in the movement.

Corruption, factionalism, and patronage are the enemies of the working class. They drain resources that should fund schools, hospitals and houses. They demoralise honest cadres and corrode the moral authority of our movement. The ANC has resolved without ambiguity to renew itself, to root out corruption, to professionalise the public service, and to put the interests of the people first.

We invite NEHAWU to continue to be a constructive but uncompromising partner in this work of renewal. Your members in the public service are the front-line of clean, capable and ethical governance.

The third pillar of your theme is the advancement of internationalism. Comrades, the African National Congress was founded 114 years ago on the conviction that the liberation of our people is bound up with the liberation of all oppressed peoples. From the cadres trained in Cuba, in Algeria, in the former Soviet Union, in Sweden, and in Tanzania, internationalism is encoded in the DNA of our movement.

Today, that internationalism finds its sharpest expression in our principled solidarity with the people of Palestine. South Africa's decision to bring the case of genocide against the Apartheid State of Israel before the International Court of Justice is the most consequential act of

international solidarity in our democratic history. NEHAWU has been at the forefront of mobilising workers in support of this campaign, and we salute you. We also salute your solidarity with the people of Western Sahara, with Cuba enduring an unjust blockade, with the workers of eSwatini fighting for democracy, and with the peoples of Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Sahel, and Mozambique.

Workers' internationalism is the recognition that capital is global, that exploitation is global, and that our response must therefore be global. As BRICS+ expands, as the African Continental Free Trade Area takes shape, and as the global trade union movement reorganises through the International Trade Union Confederation, the World Federation of Trade Unions, and Public Services International, NEHAWU has a critical role to play in shaping a workers' agenda for a genuinely multipolar world – a world where workers are not the casualties of geopolitics but the architects of a new internationalism.

In conclusion, the Alliance remains the strategic political home of the working class. It must be defended and made functional.

The ANC remains firmly committed to a cohesive Alliance that engages effectively through regular Alliance Political Councils and to ensuring that the mandate of the working class is reflected in the programme of government.

As we prepare for the 2026 local government elections, we must be steadfast in defending the gains of our democracy and reclaim lost ground. We must be focused and deliberate in unwinding the trust deficit with our people and ensure that organizational renewal is visible and irreversible.

Voter mobilisation is class struggle by another means. Every NEHAWU shop steward is a potential organiser of community campaigns. Let this 13th National Congress be remembered as the Congress that turned the tide. We have no doubt that this Congress will be remembered as the Congress that defended collective bargaining when others were prepared to sacrifice it at the altar of expediency.

Long live NEHAWU!

Long live the spirit of working class unity!





Keynote Address – SACP General Secretary, Comrade Solly Mapaila



Revolutionary
Acknowledgments

To the National Office Bearers of NEHAWU led by President Mike Shingange, General Secretary Zola Saphetha, former NEHAWU Office Bearers and NEHAWU Congress Delegates.

Leadership of COSATU Present

Alliance Partners the ANC, SACP and SANCO International Delegates led by President of the WFTU and former President of NEHAWU Comrade Mzwandile Makwayiba – the Shopsteward, and former WFTU General Secretary and President George Mavrikos

Ambassadors and High Commissioners of fraternal countries

Invited Guests

Comrades and fellow compatriots

The SACP conveys militant revolutionary greetings to this important 13th National Congress of NEHAWU. We salute NEHAWU as a

Salutations

and

red union, militant, internationalist, rooted in the traditions of Marxist-Leninist ideological orientation and committed to the working class historic mission of socialism. The end of exploitation of a human being by another in the period of suppression capitalist barbarism and its vestiges.

Every day, NEHAWU members keep society alive. They care for the sick, clean hospitals, educate students, process grants, conduct research, maintain laboratories and administer the democratic state. Yet many return home to communities burdened by unemployment, high food prices, poor services and insecurity.

This contradiction defines our time. Workers keep society functioning, but capitalism treats them as costs. Workers produce wealth, but wealth remains in few hands of the minority fat cats. Workers carry public services, but austerity tells them they are unaffordable. This congress must therefore be a congress of renewal, mobilisation and ideological class stand and clarity.

The New Era and Working-Class Leadership

We meet in a New Era of society and the NDR. Neoliberal capitalism is in crisis. Artificial intelligence, automation and digital technologies are reshaping work. Climate change threatens livelihoods. Wars and geopolitical rivalry are intensifying. The old unipolar order is giving way to a contested multipolar world. But history is not made by technology or markets. History is made by organised people with technology and markets as products of human labour. The decisive question of the new era is which class will lead?

Will AI be used to retrench workers and enrich corporations and individuals as it has already produced the first trillionaire, Elon Musk and his tech billionaire club, or to improve healthcare, education, planning and human development? Will the just transition create decent work and public ownership, or new opportunities for private accumulation? In other words technology left under the control of capital is used for making profits and enriching a few and leave the majority in desperation, that is why it must be a common good, under public control.

As Marx taught, the emancipation of the working class must be the act of the working class itself. No technocratic plan will replace mass organisation. No elite pact will deliver socialism, we have to struggle for it and the working class must lead this struggle. NEHAWU must lead. COSATU must lead. The SACP must organise, educate and mobilise the working class for leadership in this New Era, vanguard the process.

South Africa's crisis is a capitalist class crisis of social reproduction

In 1994, we defeated apartheid political rule and won democratic rights. But economic power remains in the hands of monopoly capital, in few white men and their families. Unemployment remains a national catastrophe, a simple sign of huge disparities in power relations between the people and capital. Inequality remains among the highest in the world. Youth unemployment remains astronomical and the vital power of the youth labour is wasted to preserve capital accumulation.

This is not simply a labour-market problem. It is a national democratic question, a class question

and a socialist question. A country cannot be free when millions are unemployed. A democracy cannot be complete when wealth is controlled by a minority. Political rights remain incomplete when economic life remains dominated by capital. NEHAWU's struggles are therefore not narrow workplace struggles. A wage struggle is also a struggle over social wealth. A struggle against vacancies is a struggle over state capacity. A struggle for public healthcare is a struggle against commodification. A struggle against outsourcing is a struggle for unity and against the fragmentation of the working class.

The NDR and the South African Struggle for Socialism (SASS).

The SACP affirms the NDR as the strategic path towards the complete emancipation of our people. But the NDR and socialism must not be separated into lifeless compartments. The NDR is not one road and socialism another. Socialism does not begin only after the democratic revolution has ended. The NDR creates the democratic conditions through which socialist transformation advances. Socialism gives the NDR its working-class content, strategic direction and historical horizon. They exist in a living dialectical relationship. Each advance through, strengthens and enriches the other. This is the meaning of our Party programme, the South African Struggle for Socialism. Socialism is not an abstract future dream. It is a concrete struggle rooted in our living material conditions.

When we fight for universal healthcare, quality public education, democratic ownership, worker cooperatives, consumer cooperatives, community agriculture and public ownership, we advance both the NDR and socialism. Every democratic advance must deepen the struggle for socialism. Every socialist advance must deepen democracy. The Freedom Charter remains important as it expresses this unity. Its demand that the people shall share in the country's wealth remains both an unfinished democratic demand and a bridge towards socialism.

Defeat austerity, build a transformative, developmental and interventionist state on behalf of the working class majority

Austerity is not neutral. It is a class project.

Budget cuts, vacancy freezes, outsourcing and commercialisation shift the burden of crisis onto workers and poor communities. They weaken hospitals, clinics, universities, municipalities, research institutions and social protection. You cannot build a developmental state by destroying state capacity. The working class must reject austerity with discipline, militancy and clarity. This does not mean defending corruption. Corruption steals from the poor, weakens the state and gives ammunition to those who want privatisation. Our position is clear fight corruption, defeat austerity and build a capable, ethical, transformative, public based interventionist, developmental and democratic state.

National Health Insurance (NHI), public healthcare and class struggle

Few issues reveal South Africa's class divisions more clearly than healthcare. Those with private medical cover access specialists, private hospitals and faster treatment. The majority depend on an overstretched public system carried daily by workers, many of them NEHAWU members. Healthcare is not a commodity. Healthcare is a right. We salute NEHAWU's pioneering role in advancing National Health Insurance. NEHAWU has marched, campaigned, educated and mobilised for a health system based on need rather than ability to pay. The NHI is not simply a health policy. It is a major terrain of class struggle.

Those who benefit from private healthcare inequality understand that delay can become a weapon. A progressive law can remain formally in place while implementation is paralysed. The President, through the State Attorney, has undertaken not to promulgate any provisions of the NHI Act pending Constitutional Court proceedings. The wording is clear, any provisions. This effectively freezes implementation. The danger is that litigation becomes a de facto veto over transformation.

The NHI Act was signed into law in 2024. Since then, two budget cycles have passed, yet Treasury has failed to align fiscal policy with implementation. The SACP has consistently argued that medical scheme tax credits, amounting to approximately R30 billion annually, should be redirected towards the NHI Fund. Continuing to subsidise private medical

schemes for a minority while claiming there is no money for universal healthcare is not a neutral fiscal constraint. It is a political choice.

This Congress must send a clear message: the working class rejects the neutralisation of NHI through delay. We demand a clear activation roadmap after the Constitutional Court judgment. We demand that the MTEF be aligned with NHI financing. We demand the progressive redirection of medical scheme tax subsidies towards universal public healthcare. We demand urgent preparatory work so implementation proceeds without further delay. Healthcare is a right, and the working class will defend that right.

Migration, Internationalism and Worker Unity

The migration question is being weaponised. The working class must reject xenophobia, chauvinism and violence against fellow Africans. A person cannot be illegal. At the same time, migration must be managed lawfully, effectively and humanely. Documentation must improve. Corruption must be fought. Employers who exploit vulnerable migrant workers must be punished. But workers must never fight one another while capital escapes.

South Africa's economy was built on migrant labour. Mines, farms and industries drew workers from across Southern Africa. Colonialism and apartheid created regional inequalities that continue to shape migration. The answer is not xenophobia. The answer is labour rights, regional development, proper documentation, employer accountability and working-class solidarity. Our enemy is exploitation, not nationality.

Technology, AI and the future of work

Artificial intelligence will affect administration, research, diagnostics, education, logistics, finance and public services. Technology is not the enemy. Capitalist control over technology is the enemy. Under capitalism, productivity rises while workers are retrenched. Automation advances while inequality deepens. Knowledge expands while access remains unequal.

Under democratic and socialist direction, technology can reduce dangerous work, improve services, shorten working time and expand human development. NEHAWU must

help shape this transition. Workers must demand training, consultation, regulation, public digital infrastructure and democratic control over data and technology. The future must not be automated against workers. It must be planned with workers.

Workers must build their own future

The working class cannot only negotiate its future. It must build its future. Collective bargaining remains essential, but it is not enough. Workers must build institutions of democratic economic power: worker cooperatives, consumer cooperatives, financial cooperatives, housing cooperatives, community agriculture, agro-processing, community-owned enterprises and solidarity economy initiatives. This is not charity. This is class power in practice. Italy's Emilia-Romagna region shows that cooperatives can form a major part of regional economic life. Worker, consumer, agricultural and social cooperatives operate in manufacturing, agriculture, construction, retail, services and social care. The lesson is not to copy Italy, but to understand that cooperative economies require ecosystems: law, finance, education, municipalities, trade unions and communities working together.

That is why the People's Red Caravan is important

Village Agricultural Cooperatives, consumer cooperatives, aggregation, agro-processing, local procurement and community-owned stores are not welfare projects. They are building blocks of working-class economic power. We welcome and encourage NEHAWU's support for the People's Red Caravan. NEHAWU structures should help build cooperative initiatives where workers live. Hospitals, universities, colleges and government offices can become anchors of local procurement, food systems and community development. This is socialism being built from the ground.

Contesting local government elections

The SACP's decision to contest the local government elections this November must be understood as part of strengthening working-class political representation in the New Era. It is not a rejection of the Alliance. It is not hostility towards our allies. It is a response to

changed conditions and to the urgent need for the working class to speak in its own name, organise under its own banner and place before communities a clear programme of transformation.

Local government is one of the most important terrains of struggle. It is where the crisis of water, sanitation, electricity, roads, refuse removal, housing, public safety and local economic development is experienced most directly. It is also where many working-class communities experience austerity, corruption, weak planning, outsourcing and collapsing public capacity. For the SACP, contesting local government elections is not simply about winning council seats. It is about building people's power from the ground. It is about capable, ethical and developmental municipalities. It is about rebuilding public services. It is about fighting corruption and tender-driven politics. It is about strengthening municipal capacity instead of hollowing it out through consultants and outsourcing. It is about using public procurement to support local production, cooperatives, community agriculture and worker-owned enterprises.

This connects directly with the People's Red Caravan. Village Agricultural Cooperatives, consumer cooperatives, local procurement, agro-processing, community-owned stores and solidarity economy initiatives require municipalities that are capable, democratic and developmental.

The Party's campaign is rooted in everyday struggles, water, electricity, food security, public health, safer communities, youth employment, waste management, land use, local production and dignity. We call upon NEHAWU members to engage this campaign seriously. Public-sector workers understand the state from inside. They know where capacity is being weakened. They know how outsourcing drains public resources. They know how corruption destroys delivery. They know that municipalities cannot be transformed without skilled workers, honest leadership, community participation and political clarity.

The November local government elections must therefore become a campaign of organisation, not only a campaign of votes. A campaign to rebuild confidence among communities, defend public services, defeat corruption and austerity,

and place municipalities at the service of working-class communities.

Turn around the NEHAWU SACCO

Workers cannot build their future while finance remains monopolised by commercial banks. The NEHAWU SACCO must receive urgent strategic attention. Its challenges must not lead to abandonment. They must lead to renewal, turnaround and stronger democratic governance. A workers' financial cooperative can mobilise savings, expand affordable credit, support housing, education, productive investment and community development. But this requires serious governance, member education, professional systems, accountability and a turnaround plan. The NEHAWU SACCO must become part of the renewal.

Alliance Renewal and the Popular Left Front

The Alliance remains one of the greatest achievements of our liberation movement. But it cannot survive as ritual. It must be renewed through programme, accountability, ideological clarity and mass participation. Working-class leadership cannot be outsourced. Workers must have their own organised political capacity, while remaining committed to the broadest unity of progressive and revolutionary forces.

The New Era also requires a broad Popular Left Front. Such a front must unite organised labour, community organisations, youth, women, cooperatives, informal workers, progressive intellectuals, environmental justice movements, faith-based formations and social movements. This is no longer merely an idea. In May 2026, under the leadership of the SACP, together with a Steering Committee representing a range of progressive political and social formations, trade unions, community organisations and civil society forces, we successfully convened the Conference of the Left.

That Conference affirmed the need to rebuild left unity, strengthen working-class leadership and coordinate struggles against unemployment, inequality, poverty, austerity, corruption, gender-based violence, xenophobia, ecological destruction and the commodification of public services. It further affirmed the need to deepen political education, support mass campaigns, defend democratic public services,

advance solidarity economy initiatives, and build unity in action around a common transformative programme. We call on NEHAWU to become an active pillar of this process. The Popular Left Front must become organisation, campaigns, political education, community presence and solidarity in action.

International Solidarity

NEHAWU has always understood that workers have no separate national destiny from the international working class. We reaffirm solidarity with Palestine, Cuba and Western Sahara. We oppose imperialism, unilateral sanctions, militarism and domination. A multipolar world creates new possibilities, but multipolarity alone does not guarantee justice. It must be shaped by workers, peoples and progressive forces. International solidarity is not charity but a working class duty. As we meet here today the world is undergoing profound changes.

We gather at a profoundly dangerous and decisive moment in human history. The global capitalist system is engulfed in a deep structural crisis, economic stagnation, intensifying inter-imperialist contradictions, ecological destruction, mass poverty, financial instability, and yet there is growing resistance from the peoples of the world. In response to this systemic crisis, imperialism has become more aggressive and brutal, more militarised and openly reactionary and decadent.

Today, the dominant imperialist bloc seeks to preserve a declining unipolar order through wars, unilateral and coercive sanctions, military encirclement and threats, economic coercion, disinformation campaigns, and political destabilisation. Under the false banners of "human rights," "democracy," and "security," powerful capitalist states continue to violate the sovereignty of nations, impose illegal unilateral sanctions, expand military alliances, and subordinate weaker states to the interests of monopoly and finance capital.

V. I. Lenin correctly characterised imperialism as "the highest stage of capitalism," marked by the domination of monopolies and finance capital, the export of capital, and the struggle for the redivision of the world. Lenin warned humanity that: "Imperialism is the epoch of finance capital

and monopolies, which introduce everywhere the striving for domination, not for freedom.”

What we witness today confirms Lenin’s analysis with absolute clarity. Across the globe, imperialist forces are repositioning themselves geostrategically through military bases, NATO expansionism, proxy wars, resource plunder, cyber warfare, financial manipulation and economic blackmail. The contemporary phase of imperialism is characterised by intensified competition over strategic minerals, energy routes, rare earth resources, food systems, maritime corridors, technological supremacy, and geopolitical influence, and this work better for them with a consenting political elites in various countries who sell their countries for a song.

Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East remain primary theatres of neo-colonial intervention because imperialism seeks to reverse the gains of national liberation and maintain global capitalist domination. We therefore strongly condemn the continuing imperialist aggression, sanctions, destabilisation campaigns, and regime-change operations directed against the peoples of Cuba, Iran and Venezuela and further extend our condolences and solidarity to the people and government of Venezuela for the recent earth quake that killed over a thousand people.

We express unwavering solidarity with the Cuban Revolution against the criminal blockade that has sought for decades to suffocate the Cuban people for daring to defend their national sovereignty and their chosen economic path of socialism.

We condemn all threats, sanctions, and acts of destabilisation directed at Venezuela and reaffirm the sovereign right of the Venezuelan people to determine their own future free from imperialist interference. We equally reject military threats and attacks, sanctions, and acts of aggression against Iran. These US Israeli aggressive acts endanger peace and stability in the Middle East region. We must indeed thank Iran for showing the countries of the South how to defend national sovereignty from the imperialist forces and even become victorious. Iran was not defeated and shall never be defeated. We remain equally humbled by the resilience and restraint of the Russian Federation

in the Special Military Operation in Ukraine against all of imperialism. Holding the fort in this hottest front is perhaps the single biggest modern contribution to the multipolarity project and true beginning of the end of colonialism as a we know it; it is that significant comrades.

Also the African continent is plunged into unending proxy wars, not much wars of liberation but of greed and self-enrichment by comprador leadership – this is the leaders that facilitate the

Theses on the state of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) in South Africa and the strategic tasks of the working class in the new era

Thesis One: The NDR has achieved nominal political liberation but not economic liberation. The principal contradiction of the South African revolution remains the contradiction between monopoly capital and people, in other words between capital and democratic political power and the continued dominance of monopoly-finance capital over the economy, the state and the elected representatives.

The democratic breakthrough of 1994 defeated apartheid political rule and represented a historic victory of the liberation movement and the working class. However, the ownership and control of the commanding heights of the economy remained largely intact. The mining houses, banks, retail monopolies, insurance corporations, agricultural conglomerates, digital platforms, logistics networks and major industrial assets continue to be controlled by a relatively small capitalist bloc integrated into global capitalism.

This means that while political power changed hands, economic power remained concentrated. The NDR therefore remains incomplete. The point is will the organised working class reclaim its historic mission as the leading revolutionary force of social transformation, or will it retreat into defensive economism while monopoly capital deepens its assaults on workers and the poor? This is a real challenge of the moment than perhaps a mere rhetorical question or postulation.

The central task of the present phase is not the defence of formal democracy alone, but the

transformation of economic power relations. The fundamental question remains, who owns? who controls? who benefits without the transformation of ownership, democracy remains vulnerable to capture by capital.

Thesis Two: South African capitalism has entered a deep and prolonged structural crisis which it has transferred to the democratic government and the working class, through the cost-of-living crisis and its cyclical reproduction.

The crisis facing South Africa is not simply a crisis of governance, corruption or state capacity even though these are part of the problem. It is fundamentally a crisis of the unchanged capitalist mode of production and its power relations with the working class under South African conditions, when extractive foreign capital has been undergoing deep structural changes and relating to South Africa under its new changed and dominant conditions, namely the unilateral restructuring of the work place, casualisation and labour brokering and short term contracting.

The evidence is overwhelming, with mass unemployment, persistent poverty, extreme inequality, deindustrialisation, municipal collapse, food insecurity, energy insecurity, ecological destruction and social fragmentation. These are not accidental failures.

They are the predictable outcomes of an economic system organised around profit rather than human need. South African capitalism increasingly survives through financial speculation, monopoly pricing and collusion, extraction of natural resources, casualisation of labour, privatisation of public goods and debt-driven accumulation

The productive economy stagnates while wealth accumulates for a few at the capitalist pyramid. The result is an organic crisis in which the system increasingly loses its capacity to secure legitimacy among the people. The NDR in the new era must therefore place the struggle against monopoly-finance capital at the centre of national transformation.

Thesis three, the working class has expanded and changed in form but remains the leading revolutionary social force.

One of the most serious analytical mistakes is to define the working class only through traditional industrial employment. The working class today is broader than before. It includes, industrial workers, mineworkers, construction workers, farmworkers, public sector workers, retail and service workers, platform and digital workers, logistics and transport workers, informal workers, cooperative producers, community workers, the unemployed, working-class youth excluded from production

The working class today is therefore increasingly fragmented but objectively larger than at any point in history. South African capitalism reproduces a massive reserve army of labour which is permanently excluded from productive employment. The unemployed are not outside the working class. They are victims of capitalist accumulation and form part of the broader working-class struggle.

The strategic task of the NDR in the new era is therefore to reunify these fragmented sections of the working class into a common political project. Without working-class unity there can be no successful NDR. Without working-class leadership there can be no socialism.

Thesis four, the principal danger facing the NDRA is the consolidation of a neoliberal bloc and reactionary capitalist forces.

The crisis of capitalism has intensified efforts by domestic and international capital to restructure political power in South Africa. Under the language of fiscal consolidation, structural reform, market confidence, public-private partnerships, austerity and state rationalisation. Capital seeks to deepen its control over the economy and weaken democratic institutions. The objective is clearly converting the democratic state into a facilitator of private accumulation. The assault on local government, public services, worker rights and developmental state institutions forms part of this broader strategy.

Reactionary forces understand that municipalities remain critical sites of political legitimacy, service delivery, local economic development and community mobilisation. This explains the intensified campaigns to discredit progressive local government initiatives, weaken revolutionary organisations and fragment working-class support. The working class must

therefore reject all attempts to use the crisis of municipalities as justification for privatisation and market rule. The solution to state failure is not capitalist rule. The solution is deeper democratic transformation, accountability and working-class leadership.

Thesis five, the NDR in the new era must become a platform for building organic South African socialism

The NDR cannot remain trapped within a narrow reformist framework. The objective is not merely to administer capitalism more efficiently. The objective is to advance the balance of forces toward socialism. This requires building what can be termed Organic South African Socialism. A socialism rooted in our concrete realities, traditions of collective struggle, cooperative production, community ownership and democratic participation.

The strategic direction must include, public ownership of strategic sectors, democratic control of natural resources, worker participation in economic decision-making, expansion of cooperative production, industrialisation, food sovereignty, land redistribution, municipal economic transformation, state-led development, expansion of social infrastructure, democratic planning. The NDR in the new era must consciously become a bridge between democratic transformation and socialist transition.

The non-negotiable of the NDR in the new era.

The working class must defend the following strategic non-negotiable, amongst them working-class leadership since the NDR cannot be surrendered to capitalist interests or middle-class reformism, radical transformation of property relations because political power without economic transformation is insufficient and cannot sustain the democratic objectives and social peace and harmony amongst the people, we equally need to elevate anti-imperialism and ensure that South Africa resist subordination to imperialist centres of power and defend national sovereignty.

We also need to safeguard the developmental and democratic state power and ensure that the state must remain an instrument for transformation rather than private accumulation

and public ownership of strategic assets like energy, minerals, water, transport and other strategic sectors must increasingly serve social needs rather than private profit. The land redistribution and agrarian transformation to be addressed urgently and ensure that the central question of the liberation the land question remains central to the national question and therefore its resolution is very important and urgent.

The workers and communities must effectively participate in the ownership of the economy not merely as a labour suppliers but as owners of the wealth. The people must become active agents of development; not passive recipients and we really need comrades a comprehensive socialist orientation of the workers and the working class as a whole through consistent political education. So, the NDR must advance toward socialism rather than become an endpoint.

Local government elections, a strategic front of the NDR in the new era

The upcoming local government elections are not merely electoral contests. They are a strategic battlefield in the struggle over the future direction of the NDR. Municipalities are the point at which ordinary people experience the state. It is here where the battle is fought over, water, electricity, housing, roads, sanitation, public transport, local economic development and community safety.

Reactionary forces seek to exploit legitimate frustrations in order to advance privatisation, weaken democratic accountability and deepen capitalist control over local economies. The working class must not surrender municipalities to forces whose programme is fundamentally anti-worker and pro-capital.

Support for progressive and working-class-led local government interventions is therefore not simply an electoral task. It is a strategic task of the NDR itself. The battle for municipalities is a battle for the direction of South Africa. It is a battle between those who seek to deepen democratic transformation and those who seek to restore the dominance of capital over every sphere of public life. The call of the present moment is therefore clear, defend the gains of the NDR and advance into its new phase of economic transformation. Unite the working



Advance Workplace

Organisation to

Defend Collective

Bargaining,

Heighten Class

Consciousness and

Advance

Internationalism

class in all its diverse formations. Defeat the offensive of monopoly capital and reactionary forces. Build people's power in communities, workplaces and municipalities. Advance the struggle for an organic South African socialism rooted in the aspirations of the workers and poor.

It is either socialism or capitalist barbarism! We wish you a successful 13th Congress. Long live NEHAWU, Forward to Socialism, Down with Capitalism!



Nomination and Election Procedures for National Office Bearers



Advance Workplace

Organisation to

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The Elexions Agency informed the 13th national congress about the nomination and election procedures. The agency further clarified that all nominations forms were sent to all the provincial secretaries with packages outlining the process in details. The congress thereafter agreed with the opening and closing times of nominations.

The Elexions Agency further outlined that the elections of the National Office Bearers would be announced on the last day of congress.

