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Pfumo (The Spear)

ANC Zone 12

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EDITORIAL NOTE

President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced that discussions are underway as the country prepares to move from level 4 to a level 3 alert, although this will not be one size fits all due to the risk-adjusted approach that implies that districts/regions/provinces will be placed on an alert level that corresponds to the prevalence rate of the pandemic in a specific area.

It was clear from the President's message that the new normal is upon us, since, irrespective of the alert level, we will have to sustain the measures in place to avert a flattening of a curve which could later lead to a spike due to complacency, as recently witnessed in some areas of Wuhan, China. The ANC-led government is doing its utmost to balance multiple interests, and we salute the resoluteness of the Command Council and Cabinet not to succumb to narrow-interest, pressure groups

whose sole concern is profit maximisation whilst genuine issues of health and safety of workers are seen as secondary. To us as the ANC, the Right to Health is sacrosanct as it directly translates to the right to life. This right is not a bargaining matter and no amount of threats should deter our leadership.

We must, however, acknowledge the real socio-economic impact that the pandemic has caused and we believe the circumspect manner in which the government is restoring normal economic activity is the best strategy to adopt. These are no times for hasty, popular decisions that can have far reaching consequences for the lives of our people. We shall all have to endure this temporary pain for our survival and future prosperity.

It is commendable to see how ordinary South Africans, including most residents of the Inner City

play by the rules and report deviant behaviour to authorities, and we call on all structures of the ANC to respond to the clarion call by the NEC to ensure that we are all informed of what is happening on the ground using our various reporting structures and technological tools to ensure maximum adherence to the regulations. We must also as cadres across MDM structures ensure that as government, schools, businesses, etc. re-open, the return to work safety framework is observed so that the lives of all employees and learners are not placed at risk.

We must with great humility, welcome and salute the altruism of the Revolutionary people of Cuba, who yet again, have demonstrated to the world what true solidarity and internationalism is. Despite battling the pandemic within their own shores, this small Caribbean Island has sent over 200 healthcare workers to help us fight the invisible enemy. This, in addition to more than 1200 Cuban healthcare

workers already deployed to epicentres of the pandemic globally. As profoundly observed by Professor Noam Chomsky; “-- the only country now that is showing genuine internationalism – and this is not for the first time – is Cuba. That ought to make us think. Cuba has been under vicious US attack for 60 years, economic strangulation large-scale terrorism, and by some miracle, they’ve survived and have continued to show the world what internationalism is.”

Lastly, we dip our revolutionary banner as the ANC Zonal leadership collective on behalf of all branches in paying condolences to Dr Clarence Mini, who was a humble and outstanding member of the movement at ANC Sonia Bunting Branch. We thank Cde Caron Kgomo for a fitting tribute.

May his soul rest in peace !!

In this edition of Pfumo, we are pleased and float with pride as we have finally received an article from one of our female comrades, as it was becoming worrisome not receiving any article in the six successive months that the Newsletter has been in place (Cde Jessie's article does not count as she is a national leader). We thank our Zonal Deputy Secretary, Cde Tjitjila "Shaolin" Mashao for showing the way. We salute you Mbokodo.

The article by Cde Mashao is deliberately provocative, but quite relevant as a response to previous contributions on the subject. The article tackles the difficult topic on the contestation for space by the young generation, arguing that elders still have a role to play in grooming and sharing lived experiences with the youth. The article further argues for the youth to be united and prioritise education as weapon for the future and stop the culture of only looking after their own interests. This

notwithstanding, the author is emphatic on the need for young people to be respectful in the manner of engagement so that the African culture of respect for elders is still protected.

This is indeed an interesting and provocative article, but as the editorial team, ours is not to align with any particular view but to encourage the blossoming and contestation of ideas.

The article by one of our regular contributors, Cde David Modupi analyses the impact of the lockdown in so far as it concerns the successful prosecution of the NDR. The author notes that although the impact has evidently been calamitous, he nonetheless echoes the calls to take advantage of the prevailing conditions to introduce the Universal Basic Income Grant (UBI), which was also raised in the previous Newsletter. It is interesting to follow how Cde David posits how the introduction of UBI could help mitigate against the negative effects of 4IR such as

on job displacements. Lastly, the author also succinctly makes a point that as the ANC-led government, we should not be passive but rather adopt a pro-active approach to ensure that redundancies of human labour due to advances in technology are mitigated through pioneering new interventions suitable in the Future World of Work.

We end the edition by introducing a new feature of a Q & A for leaders within the zone who are making positive impact in their areas during these difficult times of need. We ask Cde Sipiwe Shabangu about the great strides that he and the BEC

collective have made in mobilising assistance for the needy during this lockdown period.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate all our comrades in the zone who have been able to land opportunities in various roles and responsibilities, particularly our own Cde Sasabona Manganye for his appointment as the new ANC Spokesperson in the Greater Johannesburg Region.

We hope you enjoy this edition and encourage you to send us your brief comments (*Letters to the Editor*) which shall be published in the next edition.

Wishing you a happy reading !!

Benjamin Mogoye, ANC Zone 12 Secretary

THE NECESSITY OF THE YOUTH TO VALUE THE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE OLD WITHOUT ABORTING THEIR OWN GENERATIONAL MISSION

By Cde Tjitjila F. Mashao

(ANC Zone 12 Deputy Secretary)

In advancing arguments within this article, it is important that we ask two controversial questions that will serve as a basis on the analysis in the article:

- Does the current political reality recognize the existence of the young people?
- Why are the elderly comrades criticized for aging in leadership by our young people?

What comes to mind is the question on whether or not it has become sinful to age or is it a choice to remain young forever. Young people, in their calls to take over and isolate the older generation, will miss an opportunity to learn from the elders and understand life in general for them to understand politics and its dynamics. The fact that gradually, society is losing the meaning of social and cultural background, it leaves a room for negative thinking around elders. While we recognize the role and importance of the youth in the society, we need to go back to basics and be mindful on issues of respect that is part of our African culture.

There would be no opportunities and freedom we are enjoying today had it not been for the contributions and sacrifices of those we today label as “SASSA”, meaning pensioners. The country is where it is today because of our elders in leadership. This cannot be treated as a by the way event. It should be a process to phase out the senior leaders whilst paving the way for young people. It will be dangerous for them to be pushed out because of aging.

- What is a developmental state of the youth?
- Are young people ready to take up the reins of power?

Due to the many years of oppression we expected mistakes in the ruling party, but mistakes have been rectified during the past years. We are just over 25 years in a democratic government and we deployed all the tried and tested leaders who stood the test of time in the fight against the Apartheid regime. These are the people who amongst other things fought for freedom and our liberation so that we can all enjoy equal benefits. The challenge is how to balance the old and current political dispensation. This elders started as the youth and some of us don't qualify to label them with names whilst ignoring their political credentials.

The Youth Dynamic

The youth feel that seniors are not doing delivering, forgetting that this is a process and not something that can be attained overnight. It is a reality that:

- The youth did not fight for liberation but their struggle is radical economic transformation
- They are business minded, but unfortunately want easy money.
- Their perspective is that other political parties are ruled by young people without objectively looking at the challenges.

These are the FACTS

Young people are often generally excluded in all aspects of the economy. The political trends in the world show that space is dominated by the politically experienced men and women. Young people are systematically marginalized because of their age and dismissed as lacking experience. However, the United Nations recognize the potential of the youth and have made various intervention to improve their plight. It is for this reason that they developed the first ever youth strategy called Empowered Youth Sustainable Future which is an online platform with UN System Wide Action Plan on Youth which calls on young generation to be more involved and committed in developmental process in Politics and

participation. Studies shows that participation of the youth around the world is minimal, with most parliamentarians shown to be above the age of 35. This brings a total of 19% that can be accounted for the youth in positions of power.

It is also important, however, to challenge the youth to discover their mission. The young people today cannot organise themselves and occupy the space where they belong. They want to swell the ranks but are they ready? Can they wage a campaign that can be felt by the world just as the young generation of the Mandelas and Sisulus during campaigns such as the 1952 Defiance Campaign and many others that followed in the 60's.

This begs the question, can we confidently as the older generation say we are ready to hand over the reins of power in the safe hands of the youth of today?. The Moral regeneration that has in decades been advocated by the elders is diminishing amongst the young people. Our young people are not happy to be led by senior leaders who understand our ideology and have experience. The youth of today as mentioned earlier, are more for wealth, while the elders within the organisation still worry about transformation of society.

Today's young people have no place in politics but have more to say on economy and are ready to take their battles further. It is evident that the generational mix tops the agenda of the ANC in every conference. It is not wrong for the youth to place their energy there, but it is wrong when they seem to undermine the elders and term them as "SASSA". They should know that this is their living libraries that are willing to give them the tactics used in the political arena. We must also remember the role played by women who have always, before and post Apartheid, fought for their recognition by the laws of the country, but that was done in a manner which was befitting and respectful. These women never fought their leaders or their senior leadership. They waged their fight against the enemy which was the white minority and they won based on their approach on the matter. Today's generation is benefiting from their wisdom.

Solomon Mahlangu never undermined his elders but he too waged his fight toward the enemy of our struggle as the black majority. There is nowhere in the history of the ANC

where you can read about the youth of the time undermining their elders or seeking to disrespect them. The population of South Africa shows that the country is a youthful nation, but that does not mean they are ready to take over the reins of power on their own until such time where they are seen strongly building the next leadership amongst themselves. Today's young people are lost in the wilderness and are leaderless. It's a situation of the survival of the fittest. No one is willing to share their knowledge with others. They are not encouraging one another to study to prepare for the next layer of leadership. Going forward, the world will be led by those with the highest qualifications and leadership qualities, and this is an area that young people must focus on improving.

Conclusion

Although the article mainly focuses on the contestations for power by the youth, it will be an injustice not to conclude the article by reflecting on the pandemic. The City of Johannesburg is amongst the leading regions in Gauteng Province that recorded the highest number of people who are infected by the Covid-19 pandemic. We call on the youth to champion the awareness on this life-threatening pandemic that is rapidly spreading across all the seven regions in JHB. The CoJ has established 19 testing centers across the region. It is the responsibility of each of us to encourage everyone with the symptoms to go for a free testing.

Save a life, Save the nation.

Together we can beat COVID 19

A RESPONSE TO THE REDUNDANTISATION OF HUMAN LABOUR: HOW THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN DEMONSTRATES THE URGENCY OF A UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

By Cde David N. Modupi

(ANC Joe Slovo Branch Secretary- Zone 12)

Since the beginning of the lockdown, the union building has correctly taken a center stage, pulling strings from all angles to make sure that the center holds. Those who run the Union Building do so at the behest of the power bestowed upon Luthuli House by the electorate. This, therefore, calls on all comrades throughout the structures of the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) to continue engaging form and substance of the policy position that the Union Building should adopt, in pursuant of the National Democratic Society (NDS) as our ultimate objective.

Our now and then policy deliberations should not be seen as acts of insubordination towards the conferences' supremacy over the organizational decision making. Instead, these should be seen as the acts of tactical response to the material conditions, and bringing to life the urgency of the already existing resolutions. These deliberations should also be seen as a dialogue, between members of the MDM, with an intention to persuade African National Congress (ANC) National Executive Committee (NEC), which is the highest decision making body in between the conferences. It is from this perspective that we should share our views so that the decisions of those in government should be informed by the position of those in the ANC.

The ANC should assess as to what the nature of impact the Covid-19's lockdown is having towards our strategic objective of realising NDS. It is no doubt that the catastrophic nature of the covid-19 presents a threat to human society in general. However the lockdown, as a response to curb the spread of this covid-19, has magnified the problems whose existence

predated the existence of the covid-19, and presented to us the opportunity to strengthen our call for the Universal Basic Income (UBI).

I argue, here, that UBI is an inalienable component of the NDS that we seek to establish. If the effects of the lockdown which is expected to be of a short duration could necessitate the introduction of the Covid-19 Unemployment grant, there is no basis to deny that the effects of the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) equally necessitate the UBI as an equivalence of the Covid-19 Unemployment Grant. Long before covid-19 could even be thought of, accelerated rate of disruption to our traditional patterns of socioeconomic relations, known as the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), was already taking place. What covid-19 did and is still doing, is to trigger the responses that increase the multiplier effect of the process that was already in place. The NDS we seek to establish, is going to be characterised by less of human labour and more of robotics as factors of production.

Since human labour as the factor of production is rendered redundant, it means that those who rely on their labour to earn an income would have been deprived of the means for survival. This is so because income is a positive function of production. With no income, people will have no money to buy the goods and services to meet their basic needs. In short, the demand will fall to an unimaginable level.

When the machines, with little human involvement, are engaged in production of goods and services, ways should be found to put purchasing power in the hands of the people for the purposes of consuming those goods and services. This is where the idea of the Universal Basic Income (UBI) grant comes in. However, the opponents of the UBI point out to the fact that technologies have the elements of the creative destruction. By these, as Thomas Friedman would say, is meant that technology destroys the old and inefficient methods of doing things and create the new most efficient ones. The underlying assumption to this claim is that the working class should not be alarmed as the destruction of the old jobs will result in the creation of the new high-tech job opportunities.

While it may not be disputed that the fusion of physical, digital, and biological processes will result in the new high-tech job opportunities, the rate with which the current jobs get destroyed far outpaces the rate with which the new jobs can be created. During the lapse between the destruction of the old jobs and the anticipation of the new ones, majority of the working class people will suffer due to the loss of income.

On issue No. 3 of Pfumo in an article entitled: “*The universal basic income grant: neither utopia nor dystopia*”; Cde Sihlewele Myeki observed that: “Not everyone fully agrees with the concept of basic income, it has its adversaries. Those against it bring their strongest case against it is [sic] on grounds of both incentives and sustainability. At what level should an economy be growing in order for the payouts to be sustainable? Those opposed to it also raise important questions that must be answered on the incentive side. How does an economy incentivise people to come to work the next day if they are able to earn a basic income such that they would be able to survive without having to wake up every morning?”

In this essay, by means of inference, I will demonstrate that the application of UBI does not necessarily lead to a decline in a labour supply and that, to the contrary, it leads to the increase into the labour supply. The UBI will cover the basic needs and not the luxury goods. By the use of graph below, I will show why the UBI will not dis-incentivize its beneficiaries from seeking employment.

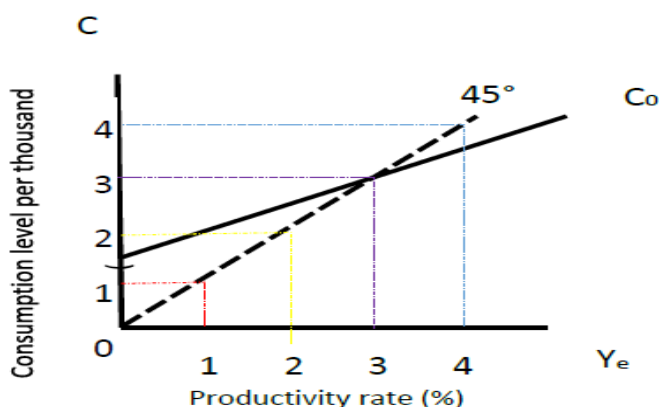


Figure 1: An illustration of the relationship between consumption and productivity

The graph shows the relationship between the consumption level and the rate of the individual participant's productivity. At the notation C_0 , which represent autonomous consumption, the level of consumption is equal to R1500.00. The autonomous consumption (C_0) is an equivalence of universal basic income grant. This means that at the level of 0% of participation in the labour market, that is, if the individual is not engaged in the production activity, the individual's consumption level is R1500.00.

Suppose that an individual increases their participation rate from 0% to 1%, from the graph above one can see that this increase will result in the participant receiving the wage price offer of R1000.00, which is below the UBI grant of R1500.00. However if the participant takes that offer, that will lead to an addition into the participant's total consumption. This can also be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} C &= C_0 + YD \\ &= R1500.00 + R1000.00 \\ &= R2500.00 \end{aligned}$$

Whereby,

C = level of consumption

C_0 = autonomous consumption

YD = disposable income

The UBI grant ($C_0 = R1500.00$) is only enough to cover the basic essential goods, most of which form the bulk of inferior goods, since the inferior goods can be purchased in larger quantities with not as much of income. This alone serve as a motive or an incentive for an individual to participate in the production activity.

As graphically demonstrated above, an increase in the productivity rate of an individual leads to an increase in their income, which in turn leads to an increase in consumption level of luxury goods or wants. Under normal conditions, whereby there is no Universal Basic Income, one would almost reject the wage price offer of R1000.00, whereas the opposite is true under UBI conditions. This is because R1000.00 might not meet the basic needs of an individual, whereas when that is an addition to a guaranteed basic income, it can bring

some change. Therefore under no UBI, people are likely to be unemployed than under UBI conditions.

In conclusion, I submit that the UBI impact on the supply of labour will be positive. This is in contrast to the claims that UBI will lead to people withdrawing from labour market since their basic needs would be met anyway.

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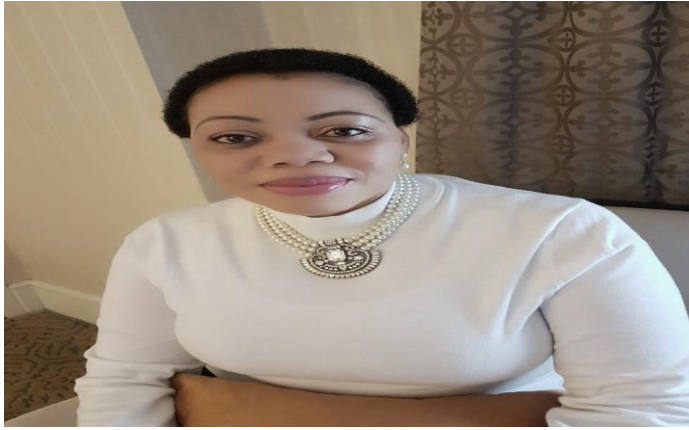
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REMEMBERING DR CLARENCE (“BIZZAH”) MINI



By Cde Caron Kgomo

Fare thee well Dr. Clarence Mini. The Comrade of Sonia Bunting Branch, we surely miss you. Your contribution to the branch during its early days has not gone unnoticed. Leading a branch like Sonia Bunting was not an easy Task. Its members needed a different kind of an approach. Some were mostly working outside the Ward and would come to meetings as and when they visited their families or as and when we had managed to make a compelling appeal for them to attend.

Comrades such as Dr Mini helped to anchor the branch by their willingness to contribute their knowledge and skills as and when they were called. Sometimes one would meet up with difficult characters that would want to impose their will upon the majority. This was one of the task one carried out supported by the likes of Dr Mini. No problem was too big for him to consult on. He gave an ear to every situation unassuming. I would personally remember him for having given me the opportunity to lead him even though, he was more knowledgeable and more experienced than I was. He referred to me every time he saw me as his chairperson and Councillor. I would remind him that I am no longer in any leadership position and he would insist, ‘I know but you are my chair and

councillor'. It gave me a sense of pride and assurance that the work I had done at the time was valuable and left a lasting memory his heart.

Dr Clarence Mini was one of the members of the Sonia Bunting branch. At the time we had just been operating as a Ward Task Team. Having failed several times to launch a branch. A group of us who had volunteered to serve to establishing a solid branch. Dr Mini and his wife were supportive and took up tasks such as contributions in kind to the Branch as in those days, just like now the branch relied heavily on the goodwill of its members. It grew as big as its members stretches and nurtured it. This new member of the Branch was very humble and not quick to speak. He gave a listening ear to some of us, young as we were he listened to every instruction he was given.

Back those day we would ask members to have a team of members that they would keep a close contact with and made sure that when we have general meetings, they inform them about the meeting and also make sure that they transport them. He undertook that task with a comradely ease. We benefitted a lot from his quiet nature and also his obedience. He would call to share ideas on how best to mobilise members and at no point would he make one feel that one was talking to a Medical Doctor.

Rest in peace our comrade, you have served the movement with pride and we will always remember you.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT WITH Cde Siphwe Shabangu

Interview conducted by Cde Zandile Lisa



Q: Please tell us, who is Siphwe Shabangu and where in the Inner City do you reside?

A: Siphwe Shabangu is a Chairperson of the ANC Joe Slovo branch also known as Ward 67.

Q: Tell us about the food parcels you distributing to the community?

A: The food parcels that we distribute are donated by Business people within the ward, and different NPO's/NGO's.

Q: What drove you into such an initiative and why did you do it?

A: What drives me is the rife unemployment within the ward as the majority of our people are working in the informal sector and live in dire situation. Some people were starting to salvage food from waste bins so that they can eat. As I have said in the beginning when

Covid-19 pandemic started, many of our people were left out in the regulations which our government put in place, such as Street Vendors, people who work in construction on part time basis, people who work in the hospitality sector, etc., and most of them were already struggling to pay rent in places where they are staying, so to wait for food parcels was going to leave our people to resort to unlawful activities. We then got out (as a branch) and appealed to those with the means to assist so that we can arrest the situation of hunger in our area.

Q: What defines poverty in your view? ” Because there’s desperate people and there’s self-indulged people who are just purely greedy out there”

A: Poverty encompasses poor living conditions. An inability to meet basic needs like food, clean drinking water, unemployment, not having access to a decent shelter, health care and other social services.



Ward 67 (Joe Slovo Branch) distributing food Parcels

Q: How do you do it? How do you engage sponsors, so successfully judging by the amount of food parcels you distribute?

A: An ANC leaders and community activists, we have a good relationship with our people in the ward, which is diverse (it is Africa on its own). You don't have to go to Nigeria, Congo, Ethiopia or other African country to find Africans. Our ward is Africa within South Africa (*laughing*). Our relationship goes beyond politics and religion, we as the ward have annual celebration where we get together and celebrate our diversity, Business Owners in our ward are mostly foreign nationals who always are eager to answer the call when we need help and we have a great relationship with them. Because of their help we have managed to distribute food parcels to 1 220 household to this day, and we are hopeful of more to still come.

Q: What is your view about the Corona virus that the world is facing and what impact do you think it will have for the inner city?

A: I believe we are in a dire situation, this pandemic will collapse the country's economy. Our people in the Inner City will lose jobs, and they will be forced to move out of the city, because they won't afford anymore. Currently we have a serious problem, between Landlords and Tenants. People can't afford to pay rent anymore, and the landlords are not going to be able to pay services. Our lives are in standstill because of this pandemic. However we understand and acknowledge the importance of this lockdown and efforts by government.

Q: Do you think as the country we will emerge victorious from this (Covid 19)?

A: If people adhere to the regulations of the National Command Team and heed the President's call, yes we can come out victorious.

Q: What advice do you have for fellow South Africans who aspire to do good during this trying time but don't know where to begin?

A: Fellow South Africans who want to do good and stretch their hands should work with community leaders, identify people who are really in need in this trying times. But most importantly they should adhere to stipulated regulations.

Q: If you were a President or a Premier, what more do you think could be done that is currently missing?

A: If I was the President I was going to impose strict regulations like total shutdown in the country, the way China did. I would also ensure fumigation of each and every street of the country. If I was the Premier I'd find a way of ensuring that every deserving household in the Province receives food Parcels.

Q: Any advice for the readers on how to stay safe and avoid the spread of this pandemic?

A: Adhere to the regulations. Let's stay indoors unless you are an essential worker, because Covid-19 is a very serious disease. Don't be a stats, endure a little longer. isintu siyasho ukuthi "okungapheli kuyahlola"!!!

May God bless Africa!



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The Zone shall ensure the content of the articles is not in conflict with the Constitution, resolutions and programmes of the ANC.

If you wish to contribute a new article or to respond to any of the published articles, please contact the Zonal Secretary at the details provided below:

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