

# Induction, Campaign, Election

## *Half-Day Political School*

### **Introductions**

These are brief notes for the purpose of opening discussion on the eight documents that are given for the half-day political school called “Induction, Campaign, Election”.

The strategic focus of this course is the winning of the 2014 election, and by extension, the winning of future South African elections by the ANC. It should also become apparent in this political school why it is necessary that induction of our volunteers into the nature of the liberation movement takes place during the campaign. The election campaign must be the occasion for the growth of the ANC cadre. The campaign must be a big political school during which we prepare ourselves for the revitalisation of the ANC as one of the principle institutions of South African democracy, in its own right, and in addition to the elected state institutions of parliament, provincial legislatures and municipal councils.

The ANC cannot be sold like potatoes. The ANC cannot even be sold as a political party, because it is, in addition to being a party, also a liberation movement with a mission. The ANC’s mission is not limited to being an alternative within an alternating system of essentially similar parties, which we call bourgeois democracy.

The ANC’s mission is revolutionary and it is anti-Imperialist. The National Democratic Revolution has to be more democratic than a plain bourgeois democracy is, or can ever be. It is this special quality of the ANC that the people must support, if the ANC is to continue its mission. So this is the kind of support we must ask for. Only in this way will the ANC be able to continue to win elections.

#### **0, Cabral, Party Principles; Lenin, Collective Organiser**

These two texts in one booklet are given as preliminary reading, precisely so that we do not forget what our historic, revolutionary movement is about.

If things go to plan, some excerpts of these documents will be read out loud while the participants in the political school take their places and settle themselves down.

Democracy is a precondition to subsequent revolutionary transformation. The state democracy is only part of it. The mass democratic institutions created by the people are the greater part. State democracy must never be allowed to obscure the democracy of the mass democratic movement, the ANC, and the Communist Party.

## **1a ANC Branch Manual, 2010, CU short version**

This school is addressed to comrades who are going to take part in the campaign to get the ANC re-elected with its two-to-one majority of support intact.

To be effective, these comrades will need to be familiar with what the ANC is. No doubt we have all heard of the “Know your DA” campaign. No doubt most of us know the DA as well as or better than the DA knows itself. But do we know the ANC?

The ANC Branch Manual, of which our document is an edited version (edited for length), is a good description of the ANC, by the ANC.

We would want to notice two complementary aspects of this manual. It describes the ANC **internal** structure in detail so that you can see very clearly how it works. This will certainly assist you during the election campaign, when you speak to voters who do not know the ANC as well as you do, and who may have a wrong idea of it.

Knowing what is in this manual will also assist you to become a cadre. This is a deliberate goal. The campaign should graduate new, seasoned cadres for the movement in unprecedented numbers, at the same rate as it gathers the ANC vote.

The **external** aspect is equally crucial. In the manual, right to the end, the external environment of the ANC tends to be described as “sectoral”. This hard-working word is used to describe the popular institutions of class struggle, as much as it describes areas or other received differentiations.

We will want to develop a more organic understanding of the inter-relation of the so-called “sectors”, so that we can understand it as a set of relations, and then exploit that understanding to mobilise the people in their liberation movement; because it is only the liberation movement – the ANC – that can unite all these “sectors”.

## **1b Mthethwa, Mantashe, The Cadre; Nzimande, The Branch; CC, The Union**

In doing so, we will be assisted by the powerful writing of the ANC’s Cde Nathi Mthethwa, the plain truth spoken by Cde Gwede Mantashe, the ANC’s Secretary General, and the incisive political intelligence of Cde Dr Blade Nzimande, the SACP General Secretary, and of the SACP’s Central Committee.

This compilation of documents is designed to impress upon readers the ANC’s clear intention to carry the NDR to all corners of the land and vertically through all strata.

All the documents are given for reading. If you have not read them in advance, you can page through them during the political school. Afterwards, one would expect you to read the documents again, and more than once.

The first session must conclude one hour after the start time, even if we start late.

## **2a Hannington on Meetings; CU on Office Skills**

The second session is supposed to make us discuss the ways and means of campaigning. The number of skills described is demonstrative and not exhaustive.

The course is saying: Learn and apply new skills during the campaign, because new skills will be needed, and also because you are intended to become a more complete cadre through participation in the campaign. You are both producer, and product.

There are many more skills that will be needed, in addition to those described here.

An election campaign is both vertically complex and horizontally extensive. Most of what is done must be achieved by volunteers, most of whom are not specialists. All of them can learn a great deal, and in our campaign we must be conscious of this, encourage it and make it a major part of our motivation and our reward.

The ANC should come out of the campaign with a far more developed cadre force than it starts with. It should proceed to create much better-organised and functional branches, because in future it will be the branch life between elections that will determine the ANC's fortunes at election time.

## **2b Minute-taking**

The booklet on minute-taking is going to be helpful both during and also after the campaign.

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The second session must not run over time. The third session is the most critical one, and it should not be skimmed, even if part 2 has to be sacrificed to some extent.

You can read all the documents afterwards. All of them are in a handy format.

### **3a ANC Gauteng Election Manual, CU short version**

This is a shortened version of the approximately 70-page ANC Gauteng Province Election Manual, first published on 5 May 2013 at the Standard Bank Arena in Johannesburg at the launch of the Moses Kotane Volunteer Brigades.

In editing this manual, one has tried to retain and even if possible to enhance the pointedness of the manual towards getting a result on Election Day. Remembering that the Election Day is only one, and that the whole campaign is eventually going to be boiled down to that one day.

The manual gives you an abundance of practical guidance. We should note that provided we go through the steps described, we will win the election. There is little in this particular political school of politics. It remains the case that victory goes to those who do the work properly.

Politics will be unavoidable. The ANC Manifesto, when it comes, will be talked about, a lot. But the winning factor is the application of skill, energetically, and in numbers.

The study of this Election Manual is the principle item in this political school.

### **3b Independent Electoral Commission, How to register**

The first practical stage of the campaign is the ID and Voter Registration Campaign. This is how you begin your engagement with the masses.

This IEC document is included so that you may have something to show people who may be sceptical about registering to vote. It has the IEC logo on it, and it has the web site addresses that people can use. It describes the process clearly.

The first open Registration Day will be in November, but it is possible to register at any time at a Municipal Electoral Office.

### **4 SACP SARS C11, Strengthening the Vanguard Party**

The concluding chapter of the SACP's document, the South African Road to Socialism, is included here for further reading, and to reinforce the understanding of the Alliance as an interweaving co-operation which must go into action, and stay active in all its parts.