

Socialist Party of Azania (SOPA) Speech

BUILDING A LEFT MOVEMENT FOR WORKING-CLASS AND POPULAR POWER

*Delivered on behalf of the Socialist Party of Azania - SOPA |
Conference of the Left*

Date: 29 - 31 May 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

Revolutionary greetings, Comrades. Amandla!

SOPA approaches this Conference of the Left with one understanding: South Africa/Occupied Azania and the African continent are in a historic crisis. A crisis of revolutionary leadership and revolutionary organisation. And at the root, the crisis of neoliberal capitalism and imperialism.

Before we proceed, we record with revolutionary pain the assassination of Comrade Mokoena Letsie, listed as a participant for this Conference, fatally shot multiple times on Wednesday in a political hit.

A Conference of the Left cannot be legitimate while our activists are executed for their politics. We appreciate the Steering Committee noting his killing in these proceedings and we demand the immediate arrest of his killers.

2. WHY THIS CONFERENCE MATTERS

This Conference must not be a talk shop. It must consolidate anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, working-class forces into a coherent political, ideological, and organisational front capable of advancing the struggle for total emancipation.

We need clarity on three questions:

1. What constitutes the Left?
2. What principles define Left politics?
3. What strategic tasks confront revolutionary organisations now?

The unity of the Left is not tactical convenience. It is a historical necessity rooted in the objective conditions of class struggle. The struggle against apartheid was never the final

destination. It was a stage within the broader struggle against capitalism, imperialism, and exploitation.

3. HISTORICAL & IDEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

SOPA was founded in 1998 on Black Consciousness philosophy and scientific socialism. From inception we maintained: the revolutionary struggle in Occupied Azania is fundamentally a struggle against capitalism and imperialism.

Our country was colonised not merely by settlers but by capital itself, represented by the Dutch East India Company in 1652 — a multinational corporation. Colonial administrations emerged to defend monopoly capital. From DEIC to the British South Africa Company under Cecil John Rhodes, to Anglo-American today — the continuity of capitalist domination is unbroken.

Apartheid racism functioned as an instrument of capitalist accumulation. It dispossessed the Black majority of land, wealth, and control of production. Therefore, 1994 did not defeat capitalism. It entrenched neoliberal capitalism under constitutional democracy. Political liberation without economic transformation preserved monopoly capital's power. The Black working class remains structurally marginalised.

SOPA therefore affirms:

1. The essence of struggle in Azania is class struggle.
2. The national question remains central because the Black working class is the overwhelming majority of the oppressed.
3. **Black Majority Rule** is the minimum political condition for liberation. 1994 delivered a vote without power. Real power means the Black majority, as the working class, must command the state, the economy, and society. Without Black Majority Rule, transformation is impossible.
4. Revolutionary struggle must combine parliamentary participation, mass mobilisation, and **Black Working Class Leadership** — workers themselves leading, not middle class managers of poverty.
5. The neoliberal capitalist state cannot fulfil working-class aspirations.
6. The unity of Left organisations and working-class formations is indispensable.

4-5. THE LEFT & ITS BOUNDARIES

The Left is those committed to dismantling exploitation rooted in capitalism and imperialism. The Left advances egalitarianism, collective emancipation, social justice, democratic participation, redistribution of wealth and power.

Core principles: Anti-capitalism. Anti-imperialism. Anti-racism. Anti-patriarchy. Ecological justice. Working-class internationalism. Pan-Africanism. Solidarity across class, race, gender, sexuality, disability, geography. Democratic participation. Collective ownership.

Inside the Left: Socialists, Communists, Marxist-Leninists, Anarchists, radical anti-imperialist nationalists, Pan-Africanist socialists, Black Consciousness organisations committed to scientific socialism, revolutionary labour, anti-capitalist community movements.

Outside the Left: Conservatism, Liberalism, Neoliberalism, narrow nationalism, proto-fascism, ultra-nationalism, tribalism, ethnic chauvinism, racist and xenophobic formations.

The Conference must take an uncompromising stance against imperialism, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, misogyny, sexism, ableism, ethnicism, tribalism.

6-7. CRISIS & PAN-AFRICANISM

Neoliberal capitalism in Occupied Azania is modified colonial-apartheid capitalism. Global finance, multinationals, debt, and neoliberal governance sustain domination. Monopoly capital controls. The state protects accumulation. Corruption and patronage sustain ruling class power. BEE created a comprador elite. Communities face unemployment, poverty, debt, landlessness, collapse.

GEAR and ASGISA entrenched inequality instead of transforming ownership.

But there is a crisis of working-class leadership. Objective conditions exist, yet Left fragmentation weakens us. The masses are disillusioned, but without a united Left alternative, transformation is blocked.

SOPA rejects colonial borders and reaffirms Pan-African unity. The SA state functions as a vehicle for neoliberal expansion. SA-based corporations plunder Africa's minerals and resources, often in imperialist war zones. Africa's rare earths fuel imperial militaries while African workers remain impoverished.

The Left must build continental working-class solidarity, strengthen Pan-African anti-imperialist movements, oppose militarisation and capitalist wars, resist recolonisation, and advance socialist alternatives rooted in African self-determination.

8. STRATEGY & THE THREE PILLARS

We are honest: revolutionary forces lack strength for immediate insurrectionary seizure of power. But contradictions in neoliberalism create openings — inequality deepens, elite legitimacy collapses, corruption grows, mass unrest rises.

This creates space to organise workers, students, communities, women, peasants, intellectuals around a transitional programme.

Lenin taught us: abstentionism without capacity to make bourgeois institutions unworkable is ineffective. Tactical participation in parliament may be necessary. But parliament must complement, not replace, mass struggle.

More fundamentally, SOPA advances three non-negotiable pillars:

First, Black Majority Rule. Not symbolic representation, but working-class state power. The Black majority dispossessed by colonialism must command political and economic power. Without this, no redistribution, no land return, no socialism.

Second, an Independent Constituent Assembly. Elected by the Black working class and oppressed, sovereign and outside monopoly capital's control. No parliament designed to protect capital will transform ownership of land and minerals. Only a Constituent Assembly can draft a new social contract based on collective ownership, Pan-Africanism, and socialism. The neoliberal constitution must be dismantled, not amended.

Third, Black Working Class Leadership. Workers must lead. Shop stewards, community organisers, women in stokvels, unemployed youth, students — they are the architects of a Free and Socialist Azania. Intellectuals and professionals can serve, but the working class must command at every level. No liberation without workers in charge.

9. SOCIAL BASE & PROGRAMME

The organised working class is central, but labour is divided. We must rebuild militant, democratic, socialist labour.

Community movements confront service delivery failures, housing crises, gender violence, ecological destruction, privatisation, land dispossession. And in communities, embryonic socialism already exists: stokvels, burial societies, cooperatives, mutual aid, community food networks. These must be expanded.

Our programme demands: public ownership of strategic sectors, democratic control of land and minerals, redistribution of wealth, expansion of public services, dismantling monopoly capital, worker-community control. Plus gender equality, LGBTQ+ liberation, disability justice, universal healthcare, housing, education. Climate justice. Internationalism. Mass political education.

10. CONCLUSION

Comrades, SOPA reaffirms the resolution inherited from Black Consciousness, the National Forum, and the Conference for a Democratic Future: unity of anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist forces is indispensable for emancipation of the Black working class and all oppressed peoples.

This crisis of neoliberal capitalism presents danger and opportunity. Capitalism now relies on war, dispossession, repression, ecological destruction. Against this barbarism, the Left must build a revolutionary alternative rooted in working-class unity, socialist transformation, Pan-African solidarity, and popular democratic power.

No liberation without Black Majority Rule. No transformation without an Independent Constituent Assembly. No socialism without Black Working Class Leadership.

The emancipation of the Black working class in Occupied Azania is inseparable from emancipation of workers globally. The struggle for socialism is the struggle for a classless, egalitarian, democratic, humane society.

Forward to Left Unity!

Forward to Working-Class Power!

Forward to Socialism and Pan-African Liberation!

Amandla! Awethu!