



★ Young Communist League of South Africa

4th National Congress Resolutions and Constitution

2015

Chapter 1: Youth Development

Noting	Believing	Resolution	Implementation Plan
<p>Legislative and policy framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Youth Offender Strategy • The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 • National Youth Commission Act of 1996 • The White Paper on Reconstruction and Development (1994) • World Programme of Action on Youth (2000) • African Youth Charter (2006) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>National Youth Service</i> must be legislated. • The <i>Right to Work for Youth</i> as socio economic right that shall be progressively realised must be legislated. • An enabling Tax Legislation and Re-introduction of Small Business Tax Amnesty Act that was repealed in 2010. • An enabling Cooperatives Legislation with <i>introduction of Cooperatives Colleges to complement Cooperatives Development Agency</i> • A NEW APPROACH TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN THE SECOND, MORE RADICAL PHASE OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION 	<p>Provinces must coordinate inputs from Districts into the draft National Youth Development Policy and forward them to Head Office for consolidation</p>	<p>31st January 2014</p>

<p>Defining Youth and Youth Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The commission noted debates on the definition of youth age from either the age of 14 to 35, and that of between 18 to 35, which will not contradict the Constitution of the Republic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some meanings by scholars is based on a sociological definition of youth as a life stage comprising of a series of “transitions from adolescence to adulthood, from dependence to independence, and from being recipients of society’s services to becoming contributors to national, economic, political and cultural life.” International organizations such as the United Nations define youth as those aged between 15 and 24 years. The African Union and the African Youth Charter in particular defines youth as individuals aged between 15 to 35 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For organisational purposes <i>youth</i> shall be understood as persons from the age of 14 to 35 and <i>youth development</i> shall be defined as: <i>an intentional, comprehensive approach that provides space, opportunities and support for young people to maximize their individual and collective creative energies for personal development, national development and sustainable livelihoods</i> 	
<p>Target Groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young women Youth with disabilities Unemployed and employed youth School-aged-out-of-school-youth Youth in rural areas Youth in conflict with the law 	<p>The policy should also pay emphasis on driving youth struggle and gender transformation</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employed youth and young women 		
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our effective monitoring and evaluation of youth development over the years has arrived at the conclusion that although we have made significant advances in youth development there is a need to ensure that the effectiveness and efficacy of our interventions are indeed making a sustainable impact on the lives of young people • Absence of youth work in many sectors 	<p>Transformation of youth focal persons / special programmes workers into youth directorates, which is normally what is called championing and mainstreaming of youth development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All government accounting officers, including those of state owned enterprises must have a KPI talking to youth development • Youth Coordinators in municipalities to have a clear role to play in relation to youth development • Professionalization of youth work (studying opportunities and RPL) • Track the implementation of the establishment of youth directorates by all government sectors and municipalities as per the Directive of Precedency • Enforceability and evaluation of the implementation of employment accord • Monitoring and evaluation should be implemented before the actual review of the National Policy 	
<p>Education and Skills Development:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One cannot deny the high premium placed on education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social mobilization and the need to institutionalize, 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is arguably the single most important investment to make as a country if we are serious about job creation and sustainable development • The majority of youth in South Africa demonstrated a disturbingly low proficiency in key skills such as numeracy and literacy • However, millions of young people continue to access no fee schools receiving free education and more young South Africans are accessing higher education than ever before using state support • South Africa came 10th out of 15 countries in Southern Africa in reading and 8th in mathematics, this despite the fact that we spend more resources on education than any of the 15 countries surveyed Poor youth in South Africa are performing worse than equally poor youth in other countries in the region • FET Colleges in many Districts are offering irrelevant programmes 	<p>and training by the state. However, greater reflection should be made on the culture of quality and excellence in education or the lack thereof if we are to talk about sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of making education fashionable, a culture of academic excellence and increased access to education for youth from poor households and youth in rural areas must be prioritized in the new approach Free, quality, relevant education and accelerated skills development should constitute the first 	<p>mainstream and massify youth service in the second, more radical phase of the NDR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond skills development programmes or experiential programmes such as learnerships and internships to address post programme employment links • Prioritisation of career guidance by all sectors and not relegated to one Agency and one Department with the main focus on rural areas • Basic pre-requisites for entry into job market such as drivers licence to make it compulsory with the curriculum at school level • There's a need for second chance programmes for those who have not passed their matric exams or have obtained poor results for full implementation at school level • Enterprise education should start from primary level at school level • There's a need for broad-based collective agreement that links skills development 	
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		<p>to job creation and assists with the coordination of efforts aimed at job creation through education and skills development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutions of Higher Learning must offer relevant programmes to the communities that it serves or relating to its socio-economic conditions • The policy should also speak to the skilling of those young people who do not have matric, and possibly take them through accredited skills programmes relevant job market • The need for the establishment of Community Colleges and/or critical skills development centres speaking to community skills • As part of re-industrialisation of rural areas there's a need to establish processing plants in SA for job and procurement opportunities which must benefit cooperatives and young entrepreneurs 	
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<p>Youth cooperatives development and entrepreneurship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is simply NO enough young entrepreneurs and more needs to be done to encourage young South Africans to become entrepreneurs • This challenge presents itself against the backdrop of a value system that is skewed towards producing job seekers rather than job creators • The harsh reality is that as a nation we lack a culture of youth entrepreneurship and we simply have too few young entrepreneurs capable of creating jobs for other young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To address some of the major socio-economic challenges we face as a country such as job creation and poverty alleviation requires a larger cohort of successful young entrepreneurs • This is simply because entrepreneurs create new enterprises, new enterprises create more jobs and more jobs leads to more household income • The availability of financial and non-financial support for young entrepreneurs has increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More land need to be redistributed for cooperative establishment and operation • Research and development must inform cooperative establishment and its sustainability • Infrastructure projects must have youth employment plans otherwise service providers cannot be considered in the trillions spent • Preferential procurement for cooperatives that contain 80% youth, which should be an added advantage for 100% owned youth coops • More money need to be allocated to youth entrepreneurs for emerging entrepreneurs, cooperatives and youth enterprises • Massify and intensity the financial and non-financial support for youth owned and controlled cooperatives. 	
<p>Social Mobilization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cornerstone of a social mobilization strategy is that of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An unhealthy youth is an unproductive youth. There is 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social mobilization as a strategy for youth development and national development is critical in ensuring a mass-based approach to youth development and the active participation of young people in their own development • Efforts at social mobilization can play a critical role in nation building and social cohesion • Bridges of social capital underpinned by values of peace, trust and equality can easily be constructed if social mobilization constitutes a key pillar to the new approach for youth development • Vital statistics also show that there is a very high mortality rate amongst youth due to a number of social ills 	<p>know your neighbourhood campaign and known as National Youth Service (NYS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many countries in the world have made use of their national youth service programmes to build decent houses, fight HIV/AIDS and improve literacy • Youth service programmes provide an opportunity for youth to address what they deem wrong in their communities whilst gaining valuable skills, assuming responsibility, learning work ethic and interpersonal skills • Through volunteering, youth become part of national solutions and are able to identify strategies to alleviate problems in their communities • Youth service is often defined as a range of activities that enable young people to participate in civic life to benefit themselves and their communities • The range of youth service programmes can span from formal service through structured programmes in exchange for minimal or no monetary contribution to informal service which is 	<p>a need for a commitment from business, civil society and the state towards health and wellbeing interventions in society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport and culture must be reflected as a way of social cohesion and mobilisation • The policy must also protect and promote indigenous knowledge systems • The policy should call on bringing back the value of human being back to all social beings in SA • More health & wellbeing programmes (especially educational) must be taken to rural communities as part of rural transformation • Male circumcision should also be reflected as key programme in the health and wellbeing aspect of the policy as it deliberately alleviate many diseases relating to sexual transmission among young people • A youth drug strategy must be developed as part of the national youth policy • Mainstream youth service into all aspects of society so that all government
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	<p>often the result of an ethic of service to others that is passed on through families, schools, civic organizations and popular culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The top five leading causes of death amongst the youth are Tuberculosis, accidental injuries, influenza and pneumonia, HIV and intestinal infections • Many young people are trapped into a culture of entitlement and dependency turning to alcohol and drugs or a life of crime as an easy way out 	<p>departments, the private sector, labour organizations and community organizations start to think more about developing and implementing youth service programmes that coincide with their day to day work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming youth service is critical to the country's development agenda and therefore every government department should develop and implement a national youth service programme 	
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Further resolve: That our youth development programme must include and intensify the following immediate social development priorities;

- a. To intensify the campaign for free quality education.
- b. More budget must be allocated to the NYDA to promote coordination and integration of youth development.
- c. Mainstream and massify the National Youth Service.
- d. Review the National Youth Policy to focus on three pillars: **Education and Skills Development, Youth Cooperatives Development and Entrepreneurship, and Social Mobilization.**
- e. Review the Integrated Youth Development Strategy to ensure that re-industrialization is linked to radical economic transformation and skills development for accelerated job creation and has an adequate focus on the youth
- f. Intensify rural development initiatives with the NYDA having more rural local youth focus and offices.
- g. Support and advocate for the accelerated implementation of community colleges.
- h. The NYDA must develop a Youth Employment Plan.
- i. Under the pillar of youth entrepreneurship and cooperatives development, all government departments and state entities must prioritize procurement from youth owned cooperatives to a minimum of 60%.
- j. The new deal for black working class youth must prioritize the re-humanization of black working class youth to redress the commodification of black working class youth that took place under 365 years of colonialism, apartheid and segregation.
- k. There is a need for more integration between state entities on youth development.
- l. YCL branches have youth development programmes to share information on support available and develop sport and recreation programmes.
- m. YCL must implement a campaign to recognize prior learning.
- n. The Province to have a fair geographical spread of Youth Development institutions by implementing the Presidency resolution of all Municipalities and government Departments of establishing Youth Directorates.

**Chapter 2:
2018 Programme of Action in building the Young Communist League,
To intensify youth mobilisation for socialism**

Noting

- a. Membership in good standing declined between 2010 and 2014 December;
- b. The decline in overall political education and ideological training especially in the last four years, and that this; is in contrast to the declaration of the Third National Congress (December 2013) that called for the intensified political education and ideological training as one of the important measures that were needed to ensure personal, organisational, political and ideological discipline that proved to be deficient in that Congress which suffered a crisis of factionalism;
- c. The tendency of some of the elected comrades not being available during the term of office and some attending by apologies in addition to not attending programmes and campaigns of the YCLSA or SACP;
- d. The need to promote, develop and nurture the culture of robust ideologically guided discussion, reading and writing among the leadership collectives, members and the youth in general under the guidance of Marxism-Leninism;
- e. The need for a correct understating and practice of the principle of democratic centralism; in particular the need to assert inner-organisational democracy based on the principles of freedom of discussion and consultation to take the views of the lower structures and the rank and file members into consideration in decision-making as well as the aspirations of the youth in general.

Resolve 1: on the correct application and implementation of the principle and revolutionary discipline of democratic centralism as follows;

- a. Correct application and implementation of democratic centralism give play to intra-organisational democracy as the basis for centralism and result centralism as the outcome of democracy as clearly spelled out in the YCLSA Constitution.
- b. Rigorously implement and ensure strict adherence to the correct elaboration of democratic centralism as articulated in the YCLSA Constitution; Section 5, Nature and Character of the YCLSA
- c. In order to deepen intra-organisational democracy based on the need to give play to the principles of freedom of expression and consultation to ensure participatory democracy and take into account the views of lower structures and rank and file members as well as the objective aspirations of the youth in general, YCLSA meetings must be synchronised:
 - i. Meetings of upper structures and leading organs must be preceded by meetings of the lower structures and leading organs as practicably as possible, National Committee Plenary Sessions by Provincial Committee Plenary Sessions or Provincial Councils; Provincial Committee Meetings must be preceded by District Committee Meetings or District Councils; District Committee Meetings must be followed by District Councils; District Councils must be preceded by Branch General Meetings;
 - ii. All meetings of the upper structures and leading organs must be followed by report backs to the respective lower structures and leading organs;
 - iii. At all materials times the Councils at all levels and Branch General Meetings must take place as frequently as required by the YCLSA Constitution;
 - iv. YCLSA Branches must immediately implement the new line of convening youth mass meetings in their communities and wherever they are based, such as in institutions of learning to engage with them and to record their views and aspirations for consideration in YCLSA meetings;
 - v. Each YCLSA branch must develop the profile of the youth within its area of jurisdiction, this must be buttressed by the YCLSA implementing the **Know Your Neighbourhood Campaign** including consistent door-to-door activities. This profile must include know how many young people live in the area, are unemployed, education and skills training needs, recreational infrastructure and participation, issues of health conditions, social ills such as drug and alcohol abuse and their effects and impact, etc.

Resolve 2: The 2nd National Council Resolutions on League Building;

- a. Resolve to reaffirm the overall strategic thrust of the Second National Council resolutions on League Building save where we introduced changes as the Fourth National Congress;
- b. The YCLSA must build a progressive youth movement at the centre of which shall be the Progressive Youth Alliance;
- c. The YCLSA must pursue joint political education programmes with PYA formations as well as invite them in its own political education programmes as and when it is necessary.

Resolve 3: Fundamental leadership tasks at all levels;

- a. Our four-year programme of action to build and develop the Young Communist League of SA organisationally should be guided by the theme of our Fourth National Congress: *'Intensifying Youth Mobilisation for Socialism'*.
- b. Leadership collectives all levels, all structures and members must as their central organisational task focus on building the YCLSA as an:
 - i. **Activist;**
 - ii. **Vibrant;**
 - iii. **Robust and campaigning organisation,**

- iv. **Present and making a leading organisational, political and ideological impact in**, the battles facing the youth **guided by** a scientific outlook of society, Marxism-Leninism;
- v. The Central Committee guidance that the National Secretary be amongst the YCLSA National Committee who are full time must be harnessed in this regard;

Resolve 4: To place grassroots mobilisation based on organising and campaigns strategy that concentrate revolutionary action right where;

- a. where the youth live, study, work and play;
- b. in the community;
- c. in institutions of learning and knowledge production;
- d. in industrial areas;
- e. in the fields of sport, arts and culture;
- f. in the battles of ideas, the media, and the rest of the ideological terrain and key sites of struggle as identified in the SACP's Programme, the SA Road to Socialism.
- g. The YCLSA must be repositioned to be attractive and to resonate among the masses of the youth – the National Committee must work out a new organisational strategy in this regard.
- h. Congress further endorses the following areas in line with its theme and the strategy to intensify political education and ideological training, strengthen recruitment and grassroots mobilisation.

Resolve 4: To build the YCLSA as a vibrant, activist, robust, militant, yet disciplined, Marxist-Leninist youth formation – strategic orientation on organisational work;

- a. In terms of the outcome of our Second National Council (July 2013), building on the foundations of the formation (1922), and re-establishment (2003) of the YCLSA, we seek to build the league as a **vibrant, activist, robust and militant yet disciplined** youth organisation that is guided by the high enlightenment in the revolutionary theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism.
- b. Branches, sub-districts and districts must become the centre of YCLSA mass activity, drawing on, and attracting young people in large numbers across the country in their respective localities rather than an old strategy of a few activities concentrated in one place or a few places involving massive transportation and others resources. It is in this sense that every district, sub-district, which must be established to enhance organisational coordination, and branches, must be active: a non-active structure is the same as non-existent, and must decisively be treated as such within the confines of organisational processes.
- c. Districts must engage with local government in their respective areas in relation to all matters affecting the youth, including service delivery. This must involve sub-district coordination with respect to local municipalities in the context of district municipalities where these exist.
- d. Similarly, provinces and the National Committee must play the roles expected of them, discharging all their functions and leading revolutionary action on the ground as well as engagements at their respective levels with the government.
- e. Building on the outcome of the Third Congress National Committee's 7th Plenary Session (April 2013), the YCLSA must strengthen organisational coordination and synchronisation, among others through four-yearly strategic plans, annual Programmes of Action (POAs) and quarterly POAs, consistent follow-ups and implementation. The National Committee directly and through its Standing Political Commission, the Secretariat and National Committee deployees, who must be seen at work in their respective commission and provincial deployments, as well as through provinces and all other lower leading bodies must lead the charge. All leading organs, higher and lower must monitor each other as provided in the constitution in line with principles of democratic centralism.
- f. YCLSA programmes and campaigns must find expression through implementation in all districts at the district, sub-district (where established already) and branch levels with provinces and the National Committee similarly playing their roles, implementing all of their work. This must reflect and

demonstrate the capacity of the YCLSA as the vanguard of the masses of young people, capable of giving political and ideological leadership to them, both in thinking and in action.

- g. Thus every branch, sub-district and district must be able to mobilise young people beyond YCLSA membership to participate in YCLSA-led action on the ground. Whilst guided by revolutionary theory, i.e. Marxism-Leninism, the YCLSA must orientate itself towards action: *‘The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; **the point is to change it**’* (Karl Marx, 1845, ‘Theses On Feuerbach’, Thesis No XI). It is through mobilisation to make a difference in the lives of young people, especially when this touches them positively, that the YCLSA will find resonance among them.

Resolve 5: To intensify political education and ideological training;

- a. We must cement the link between political education and ideological training on the one hand, and, on the other, revolutionary action on the ground in the form of, but not exclusively ‘grassroots mobilisation’. This must be anchored in the national democratic revolution, whose success must be buttressed and guaranteed by our struggle for socialism.
- b. Political education and ideological training are fundamental constitutional requirements in the YCLSA. The Third National Congress (Dec 2013) placed political education and ideological training at the centre of basic organisational work beyond it.
- c. Congress endorses the framework for continuous induction of all members, leaders and staff of the YCLSA, the political education and ideological training presented in the Organisational Report that we have adopted as Congress;
- d. Further, the Central Committee of the SACP should ensure the continuous political education and ideological training and capacitate the National Committee to be able to implement political education and ideological training for all lower structures and members of the YCLSA.

Resolve 6: All new and old members must undergo induction

- a. First and foremost on the basis of the YCLSA and SACP constitutions. The induction programme should not necessarily be confined to a single session, and neither to theory without practice. It can be articulated into various sessions and practical work in organisational and political work including campaigns. Therefore the curriculum content of the induction must at least include the following classical workers of Marxism-Leninism and our theory of struggle:
- b. the ‘Manifesto of the Communist Party’ (Marx & Engels 1848), the Manifesto of the Communist Party of SA (1921), and SACP Programmes and Strategic Perspectives, the Road to SA Freedom (1962), Path to Power (1989), Socialism is the Future Building Now – SACP strategic perspective (1995) Our Marxism (1998), the Medium Term Vision and the SA Road to Socialism (2002—present), and most Alliance-shared ANC Strategy and Tactics (1969). All of the documents must be understood both contextually and historically, the evolution of the strategic perspectives must be clearly demonstrated in line with the state of change with and the latest Party documents representing its standing Programme.
- c. The curriculum content must also include introduction to Historical and Dialectical Materialism.
- d. The National Committee’s Commission responsible for political education and ideological training may on a continuous basis identify other learning or resource materials to be used or engaged in the induction programme after approval by the Standing Political Commission of the National Committee or the National Committee. National Congresses or Councils may also add or subtract any learning or resource materials to be used in the induction programme.
- e. Records for members who have attended and completed the induction programme must be kept in the same way as the membership forms and these must be entered in the membership system (as it develops).
- f. The National Committee’s Commission responsible for political education and ideological training must draw up a list of accredited facilitators, presenters and resource persons, including Commissars,

especially for major district, provincial and national political education sessions, for approval by the Standing Political Commission of the National Committee or by the National Committee. This may include current and former YCLSA leaders at all levels, current and former leaders of the SACP at all levels.

- g. The induction programme must take place at all levels with the immediate higher structure or leadership organ assisting the lower organ or structure.
- h. The National Committee must draw up (or cause or cause to be drawn up) a comprehensive political education and ideological training curriculum and programme of the YCLSA beyond the induction programme and ensure that this is implemented (and may draw lessons from the Communist University and other similar Young Communist Leagues the world over).
- i. The YCLSA must create an online hub in its website for a correct literature and train its members to distribute it.
- j. Political education and ideological training activities include the Bua Thursday Youth Talk Series, memorial lectures, celebration of key anniversaries (e.g. founding anniversaries of the SACP, YCLSA, ANC, and outstanding leaders of our struggle for national liberation, gender emancipation and socialism, national and international, etc.) in addition to structures and institutionalised programme as set out above. The programme of action for activities below streamlines political education and ideological training for example political schools at all levels.

Resolve 7: To intensify Operation Khula;

- a. In 2006 the YCLSA set itself a target to reach 100 000 members by 2010. This target was not achieved. Presently, while the total number of members is in the region of 80 000 the total number of members in good standing is only in the region of 44 000. A proportion of the members not in good standing includes those who are at the exit age.
- b. In order to ensure that recruitment goes hand-in-hand with political education and ideological training, at least induction (recruitment and political education must never be delinked), and given the experience which led to the target not being reached since 2006:
 - i. the target of **a minimum of** 100 000 members must maintained, **BUT as both a recruitment and membership renewal target for members in good standing who:**
 - ii. **have completed induction** by 2018, and have;
 - iii. undergone higher political education programmes other than induction.
- c. However, the YCLSA reach the following targets in terms of organisations presence:
 - i. A branch in every campus of a university, university of technology and TVET college, by December 2015.
 - ii. A branch in every ward within the “traditional” strongholds of our mass democratic movement in rural, township, urban and peri-urban areas by the time of the Fifth National Congress in 2018.
 - iii. At least one industrial unit in major or strategic industrial or mining areas. Given that workers do not live at work but in communities and therefore that they should be recruited in residential branches Congress is called upon to approve that industrial units may not necessarily have to become branches (where this is not possible) as they most likely to be made up by members who belong or may belong to other branches (i.e. residential branches). Industrial units are critical in connecting workplace and community struggles and articulating both in the broader class struggle and in ensuring the presence and influence of the YCLSA among young workers.

Resolve 8: To intensify the Joe Slovo Right to Learn Campaign, to make education fashionable;

- d. This is a critical campaign of the YCLSA both in building the organisation and addressing of the key questions that the youth must answer successfully, i.e. education and training.

- e. The Campaign must be launched annually nationally, in every province, district and branch. However, this is not a back-to-school campaign. It is about that but more and is therefore broader than that. This is the campaign the YCLSA uses to engage in the struggle for free quality education, to deal with financial and academic exclusion, and to provide support to learners and students to achieve outstanding success in record time. The JR2L Campaign is therefore a standing, all-year-long campaign that must be consistently driven by all structures as set out above.
- f. In summary, the objective of the campaign include:
 - i. Commemorating the life and times of comrade Joe Slovo, one of the outstanding revolutionaries and leaders that the SACP and the ANC have ever produced;
 - ii. Make education fashionable by encouraging and mobilising the youth to engage in education, trade and professional development;
 - iii. Encouraging young people to undertake education and training;
 - iv. Improving learning and teaching processes and outcomes, quality, and ensure success;
 - v. Waging struggles for access, struggles against academic, financial and other forms of exclusion in schools, universities, universities of technology, TVET colleges and other learning and teaching environments;
 - vi. Confronting social factors that act against learning and teaching, such as teenage and learner pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse and closing alcohol outlets that are located next to schools, combating drug and alcohol abuse through the entire education system linked with the same action in communities;
 - vii. Taking up issues such as lack of resources, including challenges experienced in terms of infrastructure, learning and teaching materials as well as equipment;
 - viii. Taking up struggles against crime, including theft and corruption in schools, universities, universities of technology and TVET colleges, and taking up issues relating to safety and security in schools and all of these institutions;
 - ix. Engaging Young Communist activism in the battles of ideas, ideological and theoretical struggles by campaigning for curriculum transformation and developing alternative platforms for Marxist-Leninist teachings in universities, universities of technology and TVET colleges, through, among others, educational activities;
 - x. Mobilising for SRC elections under the banner of the PYA, and build student organisations COSAS and SASCO strong in the revolutionary culture of our liberation struggle;
 - xi. Taking forward all YCLSA National Council and Congress resolutions and declarations on education and skills training/development.

Resolve 9: To deepen the Jobs for Youth Campaign;

- a. This campaign constitutes:
 - i. A fight against the persisting levels of high unemployment which mostly affects the youth;
 - ii. The pursuit of radical economic transformation in line with the perspectives of the Freedom Charter and therefore the second, more radical phase of our democratic transition and, above all, socialism in our life time;
 - iii. A fight against economic exploitation at the work place and in the economy in general and therefore against such other corporate restructuring strategies such as labour brokers, casualisation and perpetual temporarisation of employment to erode permanent work and hard-won benefits;
- b. All of the above objectives are critical and interrelated in order to ensure that the fight against unemployment succeeds on a sustainable basis, that the youth are empowered economically, and inequality of reduced.
- c. The YCLSA Second National Council resolutions detail the work that must be undertaken in this regard. However, it is proposed that as part of undertaking that work two National Jobs for Youth Summits be convened between 2015 and 2018 followed by Provincial and District Jobs for Youth

Summits respectively. The National Committee must in line with this work strengthen and effectively co-ordinate the Jobs for Youth Campaign Coalition.

Resolve 10: Youth Health and Wellness Campaign;

- a. The objectives of this campaign are clearly explained in the name. Programmes and campaign that fall in this category include:
 - i. **Advancing the struggle against HIV and AIDS.** While the state has adopted a progressive and decisive policy to fight HIV and AIDS, including the rollout of HIV therapy and social mobilisation for HIV testing and counselling, such other as strategies as double-up, which basically involves the simultaneous consistent use of condoms and other safer methods of contraception, HIV (AIDS) is nevertheless listed as the third leading cause of death in South Africa. The YCLSA must step up its work in this regard towards reducing the infection and prevalence rates, ensuring prevention, testing and treatment towards the zero infections and a world without HIV.
 - b. Free Sanitary Towels Campaign for young women from needy families and the poor in general. The YCLSA initiated this campaign in South Africa – today this and other YCLSA-initiated campaigns such as the circumcision campaign are part and parcel of the state’s programmes. The fire must burn, especially through social mobilisation and political action.
 - c. Free circumcision for young boys.

Resolve 12: To advance the following strategic campaigns in addition to preceding campaigns

- a. Critical campaigns that the YCLSA must keep pushing and intensify include:
 - i. **The Ruth First Memorial Games** to commemorate her death, celebrate the revolutionary life and times of this hero of our struggle and former National Secretary of our organisation, all of this, coupled with political education through memorial lectures and campaigns for transformations of gender relations.
 - ii. **Chris Hani Commemoration** to commemorate his assassination and celebrate the revolutionary life and times of this hero of our struggle, former General Secretary of the SACP, MK and ANC leader. Ensure maximum YCLSA participation in the annual SACP-led Chris Hani Commemoration activities coupled with political education and ideological training through memorial lectures. Increase the voice of the YCLSA in opposing parole for Chris Hani’s murderers and step up the YCLSA Campaign for an official inquest into the assassination of Chris Hani.
 - iii. **SACP-led Red October Campaign and Financial Sector Campaign:** Ensure a youth elaboration of these and other SACP-led campaigns and the Party Programme the SA Road to Socialism in general. Ensure that the YCLSA plays the role of the mobilising machinery of the SACP for its activities and rally the youth behind the overall programme and policies of the Party.
 - iv. **General Election and Local Government Election campaigns** in support of the SACP’s electoral strategy while participating in the Party in the discussions about this and the relationship of the Party (and the working class) to state power.

Resolve 13: General articulation of YCLSA monthly, quarterly, semester and annual programmes of action

- a. **Constitutional meetings:**
 - i. **Congress emphasises the centrality of compulsory compliance and calls on the National Committee to adopt decisive action in the event of failure to comply with the following:**
 - ii. Branch, District, Provincial and National constitutional meetings, including councils and congresses at all levels as per the frequency stipulated in each respect in the YCLSA Constitution;
 - iii. Higher structures must ensure that lower structures implement the programme of the organisation and the National Committee must draw up guidelines on action to be taken in the event of perpetual and unreasonable failure to implement the programme; lower structures must also hold higher

structures accountable; higher structures must be involved in guiding lower and ensuring that they implement the programme;

- iv. Sub-district must be established and Districts must ensure increased co-ordination in line with the YCLSA Constitution; the National Committee must fast track the process to draw up guidelines on Sub-districts.

b. **Basic monthly activities:**

Activity	Occurrence
1. Branch Monthly Political Schools	Every month
2. Weekly Branch Political Discussions	Every week
3. Joe Slovo Commemoration activities	January, 6 th (National)
4. Joe Slovo Right to Learn annual launch	January
5. Chris Hani Commemoration activities	April, 10 th (National)
6. YCLSA Founding Anniversary	May, 22—30
7. Youth Month activities	June
8. Ruth First Memorial activities	August

c. **Basic quarterly activities**

Activity	Occurrence
1. Quarterly District Political Schools	Once/Quarter
2. Bua Thursday Youth Talk	Once/Quarter

d. **Basic semester activities**

Activity	Occurrence
1. Provincial Political Schools	2/annum: 1 between January and June, and 1 between July and December
2. National Political Schools	2/annum: 1 between January and June, and 1 between July and December

e. **Basic annual and standing activities, programmes and campaigns**

Activity	Occurrence
1. Induction Programme	Continuous
2. Operation Khula	Continuous
3. Joe Slovo Right to Learn Campaign	Continuous, launched in January (Including SRC elections as and when they occur in each institution)
4. Anti-HIV and AIDS Campaign	Continuous, intensified from 1 December
5. Free Sanitary Towels Campaign	Continuous, intensified in August
6. Circumcision Campaign (for Young Boys)	Continuous
7. Jobs for Youth Summit	Biennial: one in 2015 another in 2017
8. Jobs for Youth Campaign (including economic transformation campaign)	Continuous
9. Elections Campaign (Local)	2015—2016 and throughout including by-elections
10. Election Campaign (General)	2018—2019
11. University- and College-based branches Summit	Once/annum (September)

12. ID card Campaign	Continuous, intensified in every election campaign
13. YCLSA Re-establishment Anniversary	Once/annum: December

f. **Guidelines and policies:**

- i. Work on guidelines and policies that the National Committee must implement by the time of the Third National Council (Mid-term to the Fifth National Congress to be held in 2018):
- arising out of the outcomes of the 2nd National Council, held July 2013, Kimberly;
 - or streamlined in the Constitution of the YCLSA;
 - further reaffirmed by the Fourth National Congress, December 2014, and must be guided by the relevant provisions of the YCLSA Constitution including Code of Conduct:

No	Guideline/Policy	Reference
1.	Participate in elections and voting and stand for election if necessary provided it is in accordance with applicable procedures or guidelines approved by the YCLSA.	Constitution, Sec 6 (6.3) (63.1.) (e)
2.	The National Committee may adopt guidelines on the process of the selection of branch delegates which shall include guidelines on instances where not every branch in good standing may be covered in terms of branch delegates.	Constitution, Sec 7 (7.1) (c)
3.	The following basic principles shall govern vacancies in the YCLSA; if necessary, the National Committee may adopt additional principles and codify them in the form of guidelines	Constitution, Sec 9
4.	The YCLSA shall comprise of Districts and Sub-Districts demarcated by the Provincial Committee under the direction of the National Committee; if necessary the National Committee may set guidelines for the demarcation of YCLSA Districts and Sub-Districts, taking into account the provisions of SACP constitution relating to the boundaries or demarcations of Party Districts and Sub-Districts	Constitution, Sec 11 (11.2) (a)
5.	The National Committee shall draw up guidelines for the determination of the demarcations of branches, taking into account the provisions of SACP constitution relating to the boundaries or demarcations of Party branches	Constitution, Sec 11 (11.3) (a)
6.	The National Committee shall be responsible for setting any further guidelines on discipline as it may deem it necessary. Such guidelines must strictly adhere to the broader principles of YCLSA Constitution and Code of Conduct, and shall be subject to review by the National Congress or National Council. Such guidelines shall be circulated in a notice to lower structures for adherence.	Constitution: Code of Conduct, Sec 1 (a)
7.	The National Committee must set up and elaborate a comprehensive set of guidelines relating to the establishment of new branches and ensuring that existing branches are constantly active. There is a need to set guidelines on the launch of new branches and the recruitment of new members, in	2 nd National Council Resolutions, Resolution 7 (7.1) (7.1.2) (d)

	particular the combating of wrong tendencies such as entryism and “congress branches” and “congress members” instead of genuine YCLSA branches and members.	2 nd National Council Resolutions, Resolution 7 (7.1) (7.1.1) (g)
8.	By the next National Congress the National Committee must draw up a policy framework or guidelines for the determination of the boundaries of branches, taking into account the provisions of SACP constitution relating to the boundaries of, and the Party programme the South African Road to Socialism on, Party branches. The National Committee shall draw up guidelines for the determination of the demarcations of branches, taking into account the provisions of SACP constitution relating to the boundaries or demarcations of Party branches.	2 nd National Council Resolutions, Resolution 7 (7.1) 7.1.2 (e) Constitution, Sec 11 (11.3) (a)
9.	The derailing and drifting of SACP-YCLSA relations in the few cases where this has happened necessitate that the Central Committee develop the guidelines provided for in the SACP Constitution (Sec. 7) to give play and enabling effect to the YCLSA making its own decisions and shaping its own policies and programmes which may not be in conflict with the major policies of the Party. The YCLSA must take the initiative and develop a draft paper on the guidelines for consideration by the Central Committee.	2 nd National Council Resolutions, Resolution 7 (7.1) (7.1.2) (bb)
10.	...convene a national media workshop following this National Council to train comrades and develop a coherent media strategy which must include setting guidelines on YCLSA social media platforms and regulating their use. The guidelines must be presented to National Committee for consideration and ratification.	2 nd National Council Resolutions, Resolution 8 (8.2) (b)
11.	...set guidelines on relations with international organisations.	2 nd National Council Resolutions, Resolution 7 (7.1) (7.1.1) (h)
12.	The YCLSA National Committee commission responsible for political education and ideological training must develop the governing policies and among others clarify the composition and functions of the governing council of and after consideration and adoption by the National Committee launch the Ruth First Institute (RFI) by the end of the first quarter of 2014	2 nd National Council Resolutions, Resolution 7 (7.1) (7.1.2) (r)
13.	The YCLSA must develop but not limited to the following policies: (1) an internal human resource policy, (2) sexual harassment policy which must be read out loudly at all congresses and councils of the YCLSA as part of the rules of proceedings and the conduct expected from delegates and leadership, (3) communication policy, (4) social media policy to regulate all social media platforms opened in the name of the organisation, (5) media policy, (6) finance and (7) fundraising policy.	2 nd National Council Resolutions, Resolution 6 (6.1) (6.1.2) (f)

14.	<p>We must devote our development policy capacity in developing, elaborating and articulating a scientific outlook on development. We must study policy propositions using class analysis based on dialectical and historical materialism. When dealing with the way forward in policy development we must do so first and foremost by taking our cue from the standpoint of our own resolutions and policy work.</p>	<p>2nd National Council Resolutions, Resolution 1 (1.1) (1.1.2) (x)</p> <p>[This is about developing organisational capacity and building its policy hub on a variety of issues based in the principle stipulated (in bold)]</p>
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Resolve 14: SACP organisational review and renewal

- a. The Commission notes and endorses the general thrust on the SACP and the Youth, and the SACP and the YCLSA as captured in the organisational report from the SACP organisational renewal document.
- b. The YCLSA must, as part of the SACP organisational review and renewal process, start a process of discussion to be concluded at the next SACP National Congress on whether to lower both the exit and entry ages in the membership of the YCLSA given that the youth are a heterogamous entity;
- c. YCLSA must as part of this process discuss the issue of whether or not to establish Young Pioneers;
- d. The National Committee must further elaborate the role of the organisation in the SACP organisational review and renewal document

Chapter: Media and the battle of ideas

Noting

- a. Most mass media is controlled by private white monopoly capital.
- b. Media ownership in the last 19 years has had no major transformation.
- c. The growth of social media network platforms and the importance of using these platforms as an instrument of organising, campaigning and communication.
- d. The negative influence that advertising by big corporations such as tobacco companies, breweries, and SMS porn services on TV and cell phones have on our society, especially young people.
- e. The serious challenges that engulfed the SABC most notably the board and other levers of operations.
- f. The funding model of the SABC partly contributes to its lack of independence.
- g. The resolutions of the 13th Congress of the SACP on the battle of ideas.

Resolved

- a. To reaffirm the 13th National Congress Resolutions of the SACP on the Battle of ideas and adopt the broader framework contained in the South African Road to Socialism.
- b. To convene a national media workshop following this National Council to train comrades and develop a coherent media strategy which must include setting guidelines on YCLSA social media platforms and regulating their use. The guidelines must be presented to National Committee as YCLSA policy on its social media platforms for consideration and ratification.
- c. To encourage all YCLSA members to open social network accounts and contest in the battle of ideas on social media platforms.
- d. YCLSA provinces and districts must convey perspectives in the battle of ideas by among others printing YCLSA material and distributing it to lower structures, individual members and young people in general including at mass actions and activities. Declaration and Resolutions of the 2nd National Council, FNL, July 2013 YCLSA/2nd National Council/25-28 July 2013/Declaration and Resolutions/2013 Policy Documents/ Page 40 of 40
- e. Our media work must not serve as a substitute of our internal organisational communication processes, and therefore our structures must continue convening their respective meetings and councils to communicate resolutions taken in higher structures and to receive guidance.
- f. The YCLSA must work with trade unions organising in the media sector, identify and recruit progressive journalists and establish associated networks.
- g. Lower structures of the YCLSA must communicate on matters within their jurisdiction and not on matters that fall within the jurisdiction of higher structures unless duly coordinated to do so by the National Committee in accordance with the content of the coordination.
- h. We support the government (Department of Health) in its efforts to ban and regulate alcohol and tobacco advertising, and we will campaign for this ban and regulation to be extended to gambling, pornography and gender insensitive advertisement.
- i. To intensify political education in all YCLSA structures.
- j. To support the SACP in campaigning for a shared understanding of the role of the SABC, to protect and defend the Public Broadcasting Services that must serve the interests of our people and promote public participation.
- k. To reaffirm the resolution of a minimum of 60% public funding for the public broadcaster.
- l. To support government (Department of Higher Education and Training) in its efforts to introduce the Institute that will protect social sciences studies.

Finance and fundraising

Noting

- a. There are several accounts at lower levels of the organisation which were closed due to lack of funds and these accounts were not linked to the national account.
- b. The steps that head office has put in place to intervene in sorting out the above mentioned challenge.
- c. It is extremely difficult to raise funds for a Communist organisation that is conducting a struggle against the capitalist system of a minority who command centralisation of resources.
- d. A monthly levy system for YCLSA members could be costly as they are expected to honour their levy commitments in their capacity as SACP members

Resolved

- a. Head office must intervene to ensure that YCLSA accounts at lower levels are directly linked to the national account and cannot be closed must be expedited. Declaration and Resolutions of the 2nd National Council,
- b. Following this, the 2nd National Council, a Fin Com meeting that is augmented with additional skills must be convened with immediate effect, and then regularly on a quarterly basis, to reflect in detail about the mobilisation of resources and fund raising strategies.
- c. The YCLSA must build strong branches in colleges and universities and leverage these branches as a strategic source of support for resources coupled with decisive action against corruption.
- d. The YCLSA's programme of establishing cooperatives, a cooperative bank and a non-exploitative investment vehicle to raise funds must be expedited.
- e. We must strengthen relations with COSATU and its affiliates and creatively explore with them the various forms of support that could be leveraged creatively to support the YCLSA with resources.
- f. The YCLSA must engage with the SACP and explore the establishment of a monthly levy system for the YCLSA based on its members who are employed or deployed, or alternatively explore a new funding or grant formula based on the monthly levies paid by YCLSA members to the SACP in their capacity as SACP members.



YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF SOUTH AFRICA



CONSTITUTION

Adopted by the 1st National Congress, Re-establishment
(Vanderbijlpark, 12-14 December 2003);

Constitutional Amendments

First Constitutional Amendments
(2nd National Congress, Umlazi, 13-18 December 2006)

Second Constitutional Amendments
(3rd National Congress, Mafikeng, 9-12 December 2010)

Third Constitutional Amendments
(2nd National Council, Kimberly, 25-28 July 2013)



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1. Preamble

We, the Young Communist League of South Africa founded in 1922, banned in 1950 and re-established in 2003, are a voluntary mass organisation of the youth in South Africa.

We are devoted to the interests of all young people and dedicated to the revolutionary cause of the working class of our country and the globe.

We are committed to and struggle for the transformation of South Africa from a capitalist society to a socialist society in which there is no exploitation of one person or group by another.

The YCLSA recognises the South African Communist Party (SACP) as the political party of socialism in our country and enjoys political and ideological guidance from the SACP.

Young Communists promote the unity of progressive young people of our country with the progressive peoples and youth of all countries.

2. Name

The name of the organisation shall be the Young Communist League of South Africa, hereinafter referred to as the YCLSA or the organisation.

3. Logo, Colours and Flag

3.1. The logo of the YCLSA shall be:

- (a) Round with a black star and gold hammer and sickle above an open book that is gold on the hinges. The book shall be written the strategic slogan of the YCLSA: "Socialism in Our Life time", in black. The features are against a red background within gold and black rings.
- (b) The name of the organisation shall straddle the inner gold ring.

3.2. The colours of the YCLSA shall be red, black and gold.

- (a) Red signifies the blood of the working class.
- (b) Black represents the black majority.
- (c) Gold represents the minerals and wealth.
- (d) The flag shall be rectangular. The length shall be 1 (one) by 2 (two) metres in dimension. The logo shall be on the top left of the flag against a red background.

4. Aims and Objectives

The YCLSA shall:

- (a) Serve as a preparatory school of the SACP, and shall rally young people behind the programme and policies of the Party and lead them in the struggle to advance youth development as an integral part of human and societal development.



- (b) Strive to develop itself as a leading political force of the South African youth that derives guidance from Marxism-Leninism under the vanguard leadership of the SACP, and promote the interests of young people in the struggle to advance, deepen, defend, take responsibility for and complete the national democratic revolution which represents the shortest, most direct and suited road to socialism in the specific conditions of our society.
- (c) Strive to be the leading force among young people in the struggle for the achievement of socialism which represents a transitional society towards the realisation of complete political liberation and universal emancipation of both human society and nature under the ultimate goal of a classless communist society.
- (d) Struggle for the elimination of all forms of oppression, discrimination based on arbitrary grounds, and economic exploitation, and shall fight against capitalism, its highest stage imperialism and latest forms of manifestation.
- (e) Strive to develop communist, working class political and moral convictions and imbue the spirit of collectivism in our members in particular and young people in general. The YCLSA aims to achieve this by among others organising, educating and mobilising its members in particular and young people in general in support of its aims and objectives and taking active involvement in the day to day struggles of the working people and the youth.
- (f) Reject and fight against crime, corruption, the abuse of women, children, substances, drugs and alcohol.
- (g) Fight for the equality of all young people, and against racism and patriarchy in all forms of their manifestation.
- (h) Promote social, recreational and cultural activities among young people.
- (i) Promote the understanding among the youth that the working class with a vanguard party is the only class capable of leading the people to socialism and that it is under socialism where for the first time it will be possible to achieve a better life for all.

5. Character

5.1. The YCLSA shall:

- (a) Be an independent and voluntary youth formation of young people from the age of 14 (fourteen) to the age of 35 (thirty-five) that derives its organisational existence from and functions as an autonomous youth wing of the SACP.
- (b) Be a Marxist-Leninist youth formation that derives political and ideological guidance from the SACP, and shall take its own decisions and shape its own policies and programmes which shall not be in conflict with the major policies and programmes of the SACP.
- (c) Be a non-racial and non-sexist youth formation.
- (d) Subscribe to the political and ideological discipline and organisational principle of democratic centralism. The YCLSA's basic principles of democratic centralism are as follows.
 - (i) Democratic centralism involves freedom of discussion, unity of action, and it is a combination of democracy under centralised guidance and centralism on the basis of democracy under the guidance of Marxism-



- Leninism in terms of which the whole organisation constantly strives to achieve unity in thinking and in action.
- (ii) The YCLSA respects the principal position of its members, and constantly seeks to fully expand intra-organisational democracy, safeguard the democratic rights of its members and give play to the initiative and creativity of its structures at all levels as well as its members.
 - (iii) YCLSA members are free to express their views in proper platforms and appropriate structures of the organisation in terms of the principle of freedom of discussion in an orderly manner, and once decisions are made the principle of unity of action applies, the decisions taken shall be binding on all individual members, the decisions made by higher structures shall be binding on all lower structures, all members and structures shall be required to implement, advance and defend everywhere the decisions taken, and shall do so in an orderly manner in line with the principle of collective leadership and individual responsibility based on division of work, duties and responsibilities within the organisation.
 - (iv) The YCLSA is a unitary formation, the National Congress and the National Committee elected by it is its leading body. The leading bodies of the YCLSA at lower levels are congresses and the committees elected by them. YCLSA councils at all levels, and branch general meetings in terms of branches, have the same powers and functions as the congresses at their respective levels except for the limitations made in the YCLSA Constitution and Code of Conduct.
 - (v) The leading committees of the YCLSA function under the principle of accountability and control, are responsible and report on their work to congresses and councils at their respective levels as well as branch general meetings in terms of branches, and should increase transparency in the affairs of the organisation to keep members better informed. Higher and lower structures should exchange information and support and oversee each other.
 - (vi) The YCLSA forbids all forms of factions, factionalism, and personality cult. Individual members are subordinate to the organisation, its structures and committees. The minority, i.e. individual or collective members in structures or committees, their fractions based on any matter under consideration at any given instance, whether agreeing or disagreeing, is subordinate to the majority, and only the YCLSA is the majority. Lower structures and committees are subordinate to higher structures and committees. All structures, committees and members are subordinate to YCLSA Constitution, Code of Conduct, programme, policies, principles, resolutions, and decisions.
 - (vii) Higher structures and leading committees shall pay constant attention to the views of lower structures, leading committees and members, and timeously solve the problems they raise. The basic mechanism to facilitate the exercise of this function is the inclusion of ex-officio members from lower leading committees in the compositions of



immediate higher leading committees where it is relevant, as well as the frequent branch general meetings, congresses and councils at all levels which compositions are mainly made up by the rank-and-file members and delegates from lower leading committees in good standing respectively. Similarly, lower structures and leading committees shall seek guidance from, be responsible and report on their work to immediate higher structures and leading committees and to any higher structure or committee as and when it is required; at the same time, they shall handle and in a responsible manner, matters within their jurisdiction.

6. Membership

6.1. Basic administrative procedure

- (a) Any South African from the age of 14 (fourteen) to the age of 35 (thirty-five) who accepts the Constitution, Policies and Programmes of the YCLSA and is willing to work actively in the organisation and carry out its decisions may apply for membership.
- (b) An application shall be considered by a Branch Committee where such exists or a district if no Branch Committee exists or such interim structures as put in place by the YCLSA. The Branch Committee must receive a comprehensively completed membership application form and applicable dues. The application forms and the dues or their proof of payment into a recognised YCLSA bank account must be handed over to the District Committee. The District Committee shall hand over the same to the Provincial Committee and the Provincial Committee to the National Committee, each committee must keep its own duplicates for reference.
- (c) A new YCLSA member shall sign the following declaration: It is my voluntary will to join the Young Communist League of South Africa, uphold the YCLSA programme, observe the provisions of the YCLSA constitution, fulfil a YCLSA member's duties, carry out the YCLSA's decisions, strictly observe the YCLSA's disciplinary code, guard YCLSA confidentiality, be loyal to the YCLSA, work hard, fight for socialism, be ready at all times to sacrifice for the YCLSA, and never betray the YCLSA.
- (d) All new members must undergo induction.
- (e) The National Committee may delegate responsibility to lower structures to decide on applications, which may accept or refuse membership. Such acceptance or refusal shall be subject to review by higher leading committees or structures of the YCLSA.
- (f) Any member who joins the YCLSA will be subject to a membership fee and any levies that may be decided upon by the National Committee.
- (g) A member who fails to renew membership within three months after lapsing ceases to be a member, and in the event that s/he holds a position of leadership s/he shall relinquish the position concerned.
- (h) The National Congress may bestow honorary or associate membership on any person not meeting the membership requirements, such a member may not be required to pay subscriptions and will not be entitled to vote or stand for election in the organisation.



- (i) Every YCLSA member, irrespective of position, must be organised into a branch, cell or other specific unit of the YCLSA, and must participate in regular activities of the YCLSA and accept supervision by relevant structures and leading committees.
- (j) A member is free to withdraw from the YCLSA, and such withdrawal must first be communicated at the branch of the member, then to higher structures and leading committees of the organisation.

6.2. Duties and responsibilities of members

6.2.1. Members of the YCLSA shall:

- (a) Strive to be the vanguard fighters of the South African youth and in particular the working class, and to be imbued in Communist consciousness.
- (b) Must serve wholeheartedly, dedicate their lives to the realisation of communism and be ready to make sacrifices, they shall at all times be ordinary members of the South African society, and shall not seek any personal gain or privilege.
- (c) Conscientiously study Marxism-Leninism, YCLSA and SACP constitutions, programmes, principles, policies and decisions, and acquire essential knowledge concerning the YCLSA and SACP, obtain general, scientific and professional knowledge and work diligently to enhance their ability to serve the people in general and the youth in particular.
- (d) Implement the principles, programmes and policies of the YCLSA, show the way in socialist activism, encourage the people and the youth to work for socialism, and play an exemplary role in production, work, study and social activities.
- (e) Adhere to the principle that the interests of the organisation stand above everything else. Subordinate their personal interests to the interests of the organisation, and work to make more contribution in the work and commitments of the organisation.
- (f) Conscientiously abide by the YCLSA Code of Conduct, execute the YCLSA decisions and actively fulfil any task assigned to them by the YCLSA.
- (g) Uphold the YCLSA solidarity and unity, be loyal to and honest with the YCLSA, match words with deeds, firmly oppose all factions, cliques and scheming of any kind and associated activities.
- (h) Earnestly engage in criticism and self-criticism, boldly expose and correct shortcomings and mistakes and resolutely combat corruption and other malpractices everywhere.
- (i) Maintain close ties with the masses of young people, disseminate the views of the YCLSA and SACP among them, and consult with them when problems arise, keep the YCLSA informed of their views and demands and defend and revolutionise their legitimate interests.
- (j) Promote socialist ways and values and advocate communist ethics, and volunteer services for the reconstruction and development of the country in the process of eliminating the colonial and apartheid legacy.
- (k) Act consciously to reverse the damaging effects of colonialism and foster positive and exemplary racial, ethnic and gender relations, oppose all forms of discrimination based on arbitrary grounds such as but not limited to



disability and sexual orientation and promote hygiene and health status and be sensitive and compassionate to people experiencing hardships, infected or affected by among others incurable diseases and social distress.

6.3. Responsibilities towards effective organisation

6.3.1. YCLSA members shall:

- (a) Attend relevant YCLSA meetings, read YCLSA documents, and benefit from the education and training programmes of and organised by the YCLSA.
- (b) Participate in the discussion of questions concerning YCLSA policies at YCLSA meetings and in YCLSA publications.
- (c) Make suggestions and proposals regarding the work of the YCLSA.
- (d) Make well-grounded and constructive criticism of any YCLSA structure or member at YCLSA meetings, and in a responsible way present information or charges for consideration against any YCLSA structure or member concerning a violation of discipline and if necessary call for disciplinary measures against such a member.
- (e) Participate in elections and voting and stand for election if necessary provided it is in accordance with applicable procedures or guidelines approved by the YCLSA.
- (f) Attend, with the right of self-defence, discussions held by a structure of the YCLSA to decide on disciplinary measures to be taken against them or to appraise their work and behaviour; other YCLSA members may bear witness or argue on their behalf.
- (g) In case of disagreement with a decision or policy of the YCLSA, make reservations in an orderly manner and present their views to the appropriate YCLSA structure or leading committee at a higher level up to the National Committee, provided that they resolutely carry out the decision or policy while it is in force.
- (h) Put forward any request, appeal or complaint to higher YCLSA structures even up to the National Committee and ask for a responsible reply.

7. Organisational Structure

The YCLSA shall have the following structure:

- (a) National Level
 - (i) National Congress.
 - (ii) National Council.
 - (iii) National Committee.
 - (iv) Standing Political Commission of the National Committee hereinafter referred to as the Political Commission.
- (b) Provincial Level
 - (i) Provincial Congress.
 - (ii) Provincial Council.
 - (iii) Provincial Committee.
 - (iv) Provincial Working Committee.



- (c) District Level
 - (i) District Congress.
 - (ii) District Council.
 - (iii) District Committee.
 - (iv) District Working Committee.
 - (v) Sub-District, Sub-District Committee, Biennial Sub-District Council.

- (d) Branch Level
 - (i) Branch Congress.
 - (ii) Branch General Meeting.
 - (iii) Branch Committee.

7.1. National Congress

- (a) The National Congress shall convene once every four years.
- (b) The National Congress shall be the supreme authority of the organisation.
- (c) The National Congress shall be attended by National Committee members, delegates from provincial committees in good standing, delegates from the district committees in good standing, and branch delegates in good standing who shall be allocated by the National Committee in proportion to the membership in good standing within provinces, reflecting a proportional spread of all districts that have branches in good standing. The National Committee may adopt guidelines on the process of the selection of branch delegates which shall include guidelines on instances where not every branch in good standing may be covered in terms of branch delegates.
- (d) The National Congress shall decide and determine YCLSA policies and programmes and may adopt such other resolutions as it finds necessary and shall have the powers to amend the constitution or any other documents of the YCLSA.
- (e) The National Congress shall elect the National Committee.
- (f) The National Congress shall receive and consider the reports of the National Committee which shall include the Political Report, Organisational Report, and Financial Report.
- (g) The National Congress shall have powers to review, ratify and amend any decision taken by any of the organisational structures or leading committees.
- (h) The National Congress shall have the powers to appoint or elect any commission or committee and assign specific tasks and duties to such commission or committee.

7.2. National Council

- (a) The National Council shall be convened in between the National Congresses.
- (b) The National Council shall have the same powers as the National Congress, except for the election of the National Committee.
- (c) The composition of the National Council shall be similar to the composition of the National Congress.



7.3. National Committee

- (a) The National Committee shall consist of not more than thirty members of whom twenty-five inclusive of five National Office Bearers shall be directly elected by the National Congress and not more than five may be directly elected by the National Committee by way of co-options should the National Committee find it necessary taking into consideration the broad character of the South African youth and the tasks facing the National Committee and the YCLSA. Provincial Secretaries and Chairpersons shall form part of the National Committee as ex-officio members.
- (b) The National Committee shall meet at least once every three months.
- (c) The National Committee shall decide who shall be full time from among its members.
- (d) The National Committee shall exercise the following powers and functions:
 - (i) May review, ratify, and amend any decision taken by any lower structures and leading committees of the organisation; shall function as the highest decision-making body on any matter in between national congresses and councils; and may consider appeals on any aspect relating to the affairs of the organisation.
 - (ii) Consider the National Committee reports comprising of but not limited to the Political Report, Organisational Report, Financial Report, and approve such reports to the National Congress and National Council and any other documents it commissioned and considered.
 - (iii) Shall elect the Political Commission, reshuffle or dissolve it as and when it is necessary and replace it by re-electing a new Political Commission.
 - (iv) Shall be the only structure of the YCLSA in between national congresses with the power to expel a member.
 - (v) May suspend a National Committee member or any member of the organisation pending the outcome of investigation or a disciplinary inquiry or both.
 - (vi) Shall officiate over Provincial Congresses, recognise or not recognise any congress or council held at any lower level of organisation.
 - (vii) May dissolve any lower structure or leading committee or may bring a lower structure or leading committee under its direct administration.
 - (viii) May appoint an Interim Leadership Core to replace a dissolved committee at an appropriate level or cause it to be appointed, and may appoint an Interim Leadership Core in the absence of an existing committee or may do so to set up a new committee.
 - (ix) May consider extensions of the term of office of provincial committees whose term of office has expired or any lower structure of the YCLSA in a similar condition, provided no extension shall exceed a period of six months from the expiry of the term of office, should such a period be exceeded or should extension be denied the respective committee shall be deemed to have automatically dissolved.
 - (x) May order that an early congress be convened at any level of the organisation or may convene such a congress if necessary.
 - (xi) Shall be the only structure and leading committee in between national congresses and councils vested with the power to set policy, rules,



- procedures, and guidelines for the YCLSA on any aspect of the processes, proceedings and the work of the organisation or its engagements.
- (xii) May establish National Committee commissions, sub-committees and policy units, monitor and review their mandates and work.
 - (xiii) May conduct discipline inspection, enforce discipline and adherence to the Constitution, policies, resolutions, positions and decisions of the YCLSA, and may devolve powers or delegate authority to the Political Commission.
 - (xiv) May augment its plenary session with additional delegates from lower structures.
 - (xv) Shall fill any vacancies that may arise in the National Committee including any vacancy that may arise in the National Office Bearers.
 - (xvi) Shall be responsible for and serve as the ultimate authority on matters relating to the employment of YCLSA staff, human resource and labour relations within the organisation, and shall exercise this function in relation to lower levels in consultation with the respective committees.
- (e) Members of the National Committee shall be ex-officio members of lower structures of the YCLSA in accordance with their branches, districts, provinces and deployments.
 - (f) The powers and functions of the National Committee except the powers and functions that are reserved to the National Committee in the Constitution and Code of Conduct of the YCLSA shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to lower leading committees of the organisation.

7.3.1. Duties of the National Office Bearers

7.3.1.1. The National Office Bearers shall be the National Secretary, National Chairperson, National Treasurer, Deputy National Secretary, and Deputy National Chairperson, and their duties shall be as follows.

- (a) The National Secretary shall:
 - (i) Be first office bearer, responsible as the administrative, organisational and political head of the organisation, and shall be an ex-officio member of all structures and committees of the YCLSA.
 - (ii) Keep, or cause to keep, the minutes of all plenary sessions of the National Committee and the Political Commission and such other books, records and archives as may be required.
 - (iii) Attend to the correspondences of the National Committee and the Political Commission, maintain regular personal and written contact with all National Committee members and lower structures and keep the membership informed on the work of the National Committee and the Political Commission, and ensure effective coordination of the work of the National Committee, Political Commission and the National Office Bearers.
 - (iv) Ensure that members of the National Committee are kept informed of the work of the Political Commission in between meetings.



- (v) Draw up, or cause to draw up, all reports and documents as may be decided upon by the National Committee or the Political Commission.
- (vi) Be an ex-officio member of the Central Committee and the Politburo of the SACP.
- (vii) Be the custodian of all YCLSA policies and decisions.
- (viii) Present, or cause to present, to the National Committee, National Council, and National Congress the Political Report, the Organisational Report, and any report as decided by the Political Commission or the National Committee or both.
- (ix) Make pronouncements, or cause such to be made, for and on behalf of the YCLSA, the National Congress, National Council, National Committee, and the Political Commission, outlining and explaining the policies and decisions of the YCLSA on any matter.
- (x) Execute his/her tasks under the overall supervision of the National Committee and the Political Commission and direct and implement the work of the YCLSA.

(b) National Chairperson

The National Chairperson shall:

- (i) Preside over meetings of the National Committee and the Political Commission in conformity with the constitution and other rules and procedures adopted by these bodies, the National Congress, and the National Council.
- (ii) Be an ex-officio member of the Central Committee of the SACP.
- (iii) Be the second office bearer after the National Secretary.
- (iv) Temporarily assume the duties of the National Secretary pending his/her replacement in the event s/he is permanently absent or permanently unable to perform his/her duties. This duty shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the National Treasurer, Deputy National Secretary and Deputy National Chairperson with reference to the duties of the National Secretary and in a similar manner with reference to their respective duties in accordance with their order of succession.

(c) National Treasurer

The National Treasurer shall:

- (i) Be the third office bearer after the National Chairperson.
- (ii) Dispose of such funds as the National Committee or the Political Commission authorises by a general or a particular mandate, and present periodic reports to the National Committee and the Political Commission on the state of YCLSA finances.
- (iii) Be responsible for the safe keeping and administration of the assets and finances of the YCLSA.
- (iv) Keep such books and accounts as shall clearly record and reflect the financial position of the YCLSA, and submit statements of income and expenditure to the National Committee and the Political Commission at intervals to be determined by the National Committee or the Political Commission.



- (v) Under the direction of the National Committee, present to the National Congress, and the National Council, the Financial Report, inclusive of, but not limited to, audited financial statements, and show income and expenditure accounts and the balance sheet of the period under review.
 - (vi) Be the convener of a Finance Committee appointed by the National Committee.
- (d) Deputy National Secretary
- (i) The Deputy National Secretary shall assist the National Secretary, deputise for the National Secretary on all functions and carry out such other functions as shall be entrusted by the National Secretary, the Political Commission, the National Committee, National Council, and the National Congress.
 - (ii) Shall be the fourth office bearer after the National Treasurer.
- (e) Deputy National Chairperson
- (i) The Deputy National Chairperson shall assist the National Chairperson, deputise for the National Chairperson on all functions and carry out such other functions as shall be entrusted by the National Chairperson, the Political Commission, the National Committee, National Council, and National Congress.
 - (ii) Shall be the fifth officer bearer after the Deputy National Secretary.
- (f) The duties of the National Office Bearers shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the office bearers of the YCLSA at lower levels.

7.4. The Political Commission

- (a) The National Committee shall in its first plenary session elect not more than six from among its directly elected members who together with the National Office Bearers shall serve as the Political Commission.
- (b) The Political Commission shall exercise the powers and functions of the National Committee in between the plenary sessions of the National Committee, and the work of the Political Commission shall be reported to the National Committee.
- (c) The Political Commission shall meet at least once every month.

7.5. Provincial Congress

- (a) Functioning under the overall and immediate oversight direction of the National Committee the Provincial Congress shall be the highest decision making body of the YCLSA in a province.
- (b) The Provincial Congress shall be attended by the Provincial Committee, delegates from district committees that are in good standing, and delegates from branches in good standing allocated proportionally in terms of the membership in good standing in their respective branches.
- (c) The Provincial Congress shall convene once every three years.
- (d) The Provincial Congress shall elect the Provincial Committee.



- (e) The Provincial Congress shall receive and consider Provincial Committee reports which shall include the Political Report, Organisational Report, and Financial Report, and any other document commissioned and considered by the Provincial Committee.
- (f) Shall have powers to review, ratify and amend any decision taken by any lower structures or leading committees.

7.6. Provincial Council

- (a) The Provincial Council shall function under the same principles and have the powers equivalent to the powers of the Provincial Congress except for the election of the Provincial Committee, but shall have the powers to fill any vacancy that may arise in the Provincial Office Bearers.
- (b) The composition of the Provincial Council shall be similar to the composition of the Provincial Congress, and shall convene at least once every six months.

7.7. Provincial Committee

- (a) The Provincial Committee shall consist of not more than twenty-three members of who twenty inclusive of five Provincial Office Bearers shall be directly elected by the Provincial Congress and not more than three may be directly elected by the Provincial Committee by way of co-options should the Provincial Committee find it necessary taking into consideration the broad character of the youth in the province and the tasks facing the YCLSA. District Secretaries and Chairpersons shall form part of the Provincial Committee as ex-officio members.
- (b) The Provincial Office Bearers shall be the Provincial Secretary, Provincial Chairperson, Provincial Treasurer, Deputy Provincial Secretary, and Deputy Provincial Chairperson.
- (c) The Provincial Committee shall elect the Provincial Working Committee, reshuffle or dissolve it as and when it is necessary and re-elect a new Provincial Working Committee.
- (d) The Provincial Committee shall meet at least once every two months.
- (e) The Provincial Committee shall fill any vacancy that may arise in the Provincial Committee except for the vacancies of the Provincial Office Bearers.

7.8. Provincial Working Committee

- (a) The Provincial Committee shall in its first plenary session elect not more than five from among its directly elected members who together with the Provincial Office Bearers shall serve as the Provincial Working Committee.
- (b) The Provincial Working Committee shall meet at least once every month, and shall provide support to the Provincial Secretariat and carry out such other functions as may be necessary in respect to the implementation and overall coordination of the work of the Provincial Committee.
- (c) The work of the Provincial Working Committee shall be reported to the Provincial Committee.



7.9. District Congress

- (a) Functioning under the overall direction of the National Committee which may be cascaded by the immediate oversight direction of the Provincial Committee the District Congress shall be the highest decision making body of the YCLSA in a district.
- (b) The District Congress shall be attended by the District Committee and delegates from branches allocated proportionally in terms of the membership in good standing in their respective branches.
- (c) The District Congress shall elect the District Committee.
- (d) The District Congress shall convene once every two years.
- (e) The District Congress shall receive and consider the reports of the District Committee which shall include the Political Report, Organisational Report, and Financial Report.

7.10. District Council

- (a) The District Council shall function under the same principles and have the powers equivalent to the powers of the District Congress except for the election of the District Committee, but shall have the powers to fill any vacancy that may arise in the District Office Bearers.
- (b) The District Council shall convene at least once every three months.

7.11. District Committee

- (a) The District Committee shall consist of twenty members inclusive of five District Office Bearers, who shall all be directly elected by the District Congress.
- (b) The District Office Bearers shall be the District Secretary, District Chairperson, District Treasurer, Deputy District Secretary, and Deputy District Chairperson.
- (c) The District Committee shall elect the District Working Committee, and shall meet at least once every month.
- (d) The District Committee shall fill any vacancy that may arise in the District Committee except for vacancies of District Office Bearers.

7.12. District Working Committee

- (a) The District Working Committee shall consist of District Office Bearers and three directly elected members of the District Committee.
- (b) The District Working Committee shall meet at least once every month, and shall provide support to the District Secretariat and carry out such other functions as may be necessary in respect to the implementation and overall coordination of the work of the District Committee.
- (c) The work of the District Working Committee shall be reported to the District Committee.



7.13. Sub-Districts

- (a) The YCLSA may establish sub-districts for purposes of organisational coordination.
- (b) Sub-districts shall function under the direction of the District Committee which shall exercise oversight over the meetings and work of the sub-districts under the overall direction of the National Committee which may be cascaded by the Provincial Committee.
- (c) A Sub-District Committee shall consist of secretaries and chairpersons from branches of the YCLSA in good standing as standing branch delegates, and shall in a Sub-District Biennial Council elect from amongst themselves a Sub-District Convenor, and a Sub-District Coordinator.
- (d) The Sub-District Convenor shall be responsible for presiding functions, the Sub-District Coordinator shall be responsible for secretarial functions, and both shall function under the direction of the District Committee in which they shall serve as ex-officio members without voting rights.
- (e) The Sub-District Biennial Council shall take place as soon as possible after a District Congress and be convened by the District Committee; and the term of office of the Sub-District Convenor, and Sub-District Coordinator, shall as such be interlocked with the term of office of the District Committee.
- (f) Sub-District Committee meetings may be convened at least once every three months by the District Committee.
- (g) The District Committee may increase the number of branch delegates to a Sub-District Committee meeting, and to the Sub-District Biennial Council without any alteration in terms of the election of the Sub-District Convenor and the Sub-District Coordinator.
- (h) A Sub-District Committee may fill the vacancies of the Sub-District Convenor and Sub-District Coordinator should such arise.

7.14. Branch Congress

- (a) Functioning under the overall direction of the National Committee which may be cascaded by the Provincial Committee and carried through under the immediate oversight direction of the District Committee the Branch Congress shall have powers to decide on any matters relating to the branch.
- (b) The Branch Congress shall convene once every twelve months.
- (c) The Branch Congress shall be attended by the Branch Committee and members in the branch who are in good standing.
- (d) The Branch Congress shall elect the Branch Committee.
- (e) The Branch Congress shall receive and consider Branch Committee reports, including but not limited to the Political Report, Organisational Report, and Financial Report.

7.15. Branch General Meeting

- (a) The Branch General Meeting shall have the same powers as the Branch Congress except for the election of a Branch Committee, but shall fill any vacancies that may arise in the Branch Committee, and shall meet at least once every two months.



7.16. Branch Committee

- (a) The Branch Committee shall consist of ten members inclusive of five Branch Office Bearers who shall be the Branch Secretary, Branch Chairperson, Branch Treasurer, Deputy Branch Secretary, and Deputy Branch Chairperson.
- (b) The Branch Committee shall meet at least once every month, and handle matters relating to the branch.

8. Eligibility for election, voting rights, and for serving in a leading committee of the YCLSA

- (a) Only members of the YCLSA in good standing and who comply with the YCLSA Constitution and Code of Conduct shall be eligible for nomination, election, election by co-option, and voting rights at YCLSA congresses, councils and meetings.
- (b) For a member of the YCLSA to be eligible to vote at a branch congress or branch general meeting such a member must have been in good standing for at least six months, except for a totally new branch in its first branch congress and all the general meetings before it is six months old in existence in terms of which all members in good standing shall have voting rights.
- (c) Only YCLSA branches that have existed for at least six months in good standing prior to the cut-off date for auditing may have voting rights at the congresses and councils of the YCLSA taking place at district, provincial and national levels.
- (d) Should a congress of the YCLSA be convened after the lapse of the term of office of a leading committee, unless approved otherwise by the National Committee, only branches that have existed for at least six months prior to the lapse of the term of office may have voting rights at such a congress where a new leading committee shall be elected.
- (e) Only members of the YCLSA with three unbroken years of service in good standing shall be eligible to be nominated or elected into the National Committee, and the Provincial Committee.
- (f) Only members of the YCLSA with two unbroken years of service in good standing shall be eligible to be nominated or elected into a District Committee, and into the positions of Sub-District Convener and Sub-District Coordinator at a Sub-District level.
- (g) Only members of the YCLSA with six months unbroken service as members of the YCLSA in good standing shall be eligible to be nominated and elected into a Branch Committee with the exception of a totally new branch in terms of which any member of the branch in good standing shall be eligible to be nominated and elected into a Branch Committee.
- (h) Only members of the YCLSA with twelve unbroken months of service in good standing shall be eligible to vote at a district, provincial and national congress and council.
- (i) A member who is serving in a higher leading committee is not eligible for nomination and election in a lower leading committee.



- (j) Should a member who is serving in a leading committee of the YCLSA become older than the age of 35 (thirty-five) s/he shall continue to serve in that capacity until the logical conclusion of the respective term of office.
- (k) A member of the YCLSA who is eligible for election at a congress or a council where it may be exercising the powers to fill a vacancy shall in order to stand require a threshold of 1/3 (one-third) of branches in good standing for the district level, 1/3 (one-third) of districts in good standing for the provincial level and 1/3 (one-third) of provinces in good standing for national congress, all of which shall be preceded by branch nominations. Any nomination from the floor at a congress or such a council shall in order to stand require a threshold of 40% (forty per cent) of voting delegates.

9. Basic principles governing vacancies

The following basic principles shall govern vacancies in the YCLSA; if necessary, the National Committee may adopt additional principles and codify them in the form of guidelines.

- (a) A member who is elected in a higher leading committee while serving in a lower leading committee shall serve in both positions subject to being replaced in the lower leading committee within six months, otherwise s/he shall at the completion of the sixth month since elected in a higher leading committee be deemed to have relinquished the position in the lower leading committee.
- (b) A member shall automatically cease to be a member of the National Committee upon being absent from two successive meetings without a valid reason, at lower levels a member shall cease to be a member of a leading committee upon being absent from three successive meetings without a valid reason.
- (c) A member shall be removed from a leading committee as a consequence of an implementation of a relevant disciplinary measure/s or termination of membership from the YCLSA.
- (d) A member shall be replaced from a leading committee if s/he resigned.
- (e) A member shall be replaced from a leading committee if s/he has passed away.
- (f) The filling of vacancies that may arise in a leading committee shall not exceed 50%. Otherwise an early congress shall be convened to elect a new leading committee.

10. Induction and newly elected committees

- (a) All newly elected leading committees of the YCLSA shall undergo compulsory induction.
- (b) All newly elected members of YCLSA leading committees shall undergo compulsory induction.

11. Demarcations

11.1. Provinces

- (a) The YCLSA shall comprise of Provinces demarcated in line with government delimitations.



- (b) The Provinces shall comprise of districts and branches and where necessary Sub-Districts.

11.2. Districts and Sub-Districts

- (a) The YCLSA shall comprise of Districts and Sub-Districts demarcated by the Provincial Committee under the direction of the National Committee; if necessary the National Committee may set guidelines for the demarcation of YCLSA Districts and Sub-Districts, taking into account the provisions of SACP constitution relating to the boundaries or demarcations of Party Districts and Sub-Districts.
- (b) A District shall comprise of at least ten branches or three hundred members in good standing who shall not come from less than six branches in good standing.

11.3. Branches and units

- (a) The base structure of the YCLSA is the branch, to be formed at a residential area or in an institution of learning or industrial area, and every member of the YCLSA shall be obliged to belong to a branch. The National Committee shall draw up guidelines for the determination of the demarcations of branches, taking into account the provisions of SACP constitution relating to the boundaries or demarcations of Party branches.
- (b) The YCLSA branch shall comprise of not less than thirty members in good standing, and shall ensure that it acts as a basic unit of activity for members by translating YCLSA policies, resolutions, decisions and campaigns into action, and by assisting members to fulfil their duties and responsibilities.
- (c) A District Committee may form a unit of the YCLSA consisting of a minimum of four members as the first step towards the establishment of a branch, provided such a unit may not be allowed to exist and function for more than six months without meeting the basic requirements of and being launched into a fully-fledged branch unless authorised by the District Committee or Provincial Committee where a District Committee does not exist or is not functional. Such a unit shall be represented by one member in good standing on the nearest Branch Committee. All members of such a unit shall have all the duties and responsibilities of YCLSA members except for voting rights at branch meetings and at sub-district or district or any meetings of the YCLSA to which a delegation from them may be invited. All other provisions of the SACP constitution relating to Party units shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to similar YCLSA units.

12. Quorum

- (a) The quorum for all YCLSA meetings or structures or committees shall be fifty percent plus one (50% + 1).

13. Organisational Principles on Gender

- (a) The YCLSA subscribes to the principle of equality.
- (b) YCLSA leading committees shall at least comprise of a minimum of 40% female comrades.



- (c) All congresses, councils and conferences of the YCLSA shall at least comprise of a minimum of 40% female delegates.

14. Amendments and interpretation

- (a) The YCLSA constitution may be amended by two thirds of the delegates at a National Congress or National Council provided the proposed constitutional amendments to be considered have been circulated within the organisation at least three months prior to the respective National Congress or National Council.
- (b) The National Committee shall, in between National Congresses and Councils, be the supreme body and ultimate authority vested with the powers to settle any dispute relating to the interpretation and application of the YCLSA Constitution and its addendums.
- (c) All interpretations of the YCLSA Constitution shall be reported to the National Congress as part of the Organisational Report as well as to the National Council if such convenes first before the National Congress.
- (d) Referrals of appeals on interpretation and application of the YCLSA Constitution from the branch level up shall only be considered if they are done in an orderly manner and in the order of succession in relation to YCLSA leading committees.
- (e) As a voluntary organisation the YCLSA reserves all the rights and ultimate say over internal organisational, political and ideological matters, and any member who may decide to approach a court over such matters shall be deemed to have automatically separated from the YCLSA and shall accordingly lose all the rights, duties and responsibilities of YCLSA members.

15. Dissolution

- (a) The YCLSA has been re-established in terms of a resolution of the SACP, and in the event the necessity of possible dissolution arises either or both of the following shall apply:
 - (i) The SACP may initiate a discussion, consult with the YCLSA, and take the final decision.
 - (ii) The YCLSA shall entertain such a motion at a National Congress provided the motion and associated motivation have been circulated within the organisation for at least twelve months and the recommendations of the National Congress after considering the motion shall be presented to the SACP which shall have the final say.
 - (b) In the event the YCLSA is dissolved the SACP shall take responsibility and assume control of all the assets of the YCLSA.
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YCLSA CONSTITUTION: ADDENDUM NO 1, YCLSA CODE OF CONDUCT

YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF SOUTH AFRICA



CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Discipline

- (a) The National Committee shall be responsible for setting any further guidelines on discipline as it may deem it necessary. Such guidelines must strictly adhere to the broader principles of YCLSA Constitution and Code of Conduct, and shall be subject to review by the National Congress or National Council. Such guidelines shall be circulated in a notice to lower structures for adherence.
- (b) Any member of the YCLSA who defies the decision taken by the National Congress or any structure of the YCLSA after due process shall be expelled with immediate effect.
- (c) The member so expelled, shall have a right to appeal to the relevant higher structure or leading committee in accordance with the provisions stipulated in this Code of Conduct.
- (d) All YCLSA members who are suspended or expelled by the SACP after the completion of a disciplinary process shall automatically be suspended or expelled by the YCLSA.

2. Rules and regulations

- (a) YCLSA members shall act according to the rules and regulations of the YCLSA; act in a manner that is frank, honest and faithful to the YCLSA and does not betray the interests of the organisation; and shall, in his/her personal conduct, act in a manner which will bring credit to the YCLSA and strive to serve as a standard bearer of the highest communist ethic and morality.
- (b) Respect each and every member of the organisation.
- (c) Defend and protect the name and the statue of the organisation, its structures and committees from any disrepute.
- (d) Discipline shall be the overall responsibility and the prerogative of the National Committee which guidance shall directly cascade at all levels of the organisation.
- (e) All members of YCLSA shall abide by the Code of Conduct of the YCLSA and the SACP.



- (f) A Disciplinary Committee and or Conflict Resolution Committee may be formed to deal with any specific case that may arise as a result of misconduct or conflict or any form of a quarrel or dispute within the YCLSA.
- (g) The Disciplinary Committee may be formed at any level of the organisation by a leading committee of the YCLSA from among its members led by an office bearer/s.
- (h) A member may be suspended pending the outcome of an investigation or disciplinary hearing in which event s/he shall be notified in writing and shall remain suspended until the case has been heard and or concluded by the Disciplinary Committee which shall present its report to the relevant leading committee or structure of the YCLSA for due consideration.

3. Offenses

3.1. A member of the YCLSA may be disciplined and or expelled if s/he:

- (a) Contravenes any part of the YCLSA Constitution or Code of Conduct or Principle or Policy or Resolution or Decision in a manner that results in the disruption of the running of the organisation.
- (b) Acts against the interests of the organisation.
- (c) Fails to pay membership fee/levies in accordance with the YCLSA Constitution or decision/s of the National Committee.
- (d) Brings the name of the organisation into disrepute.
- (e) Brings about chaos in the day to day running and functioning of the organisation.

3.2. A member of the YCLSA shall be charged with a serious offense or offences against the organisation if s/he:

- (a) Violates the guiding documents, rules, guidelines, policies or principles of the YCLSA.
- (b) Acts in a manner that exposes members to serious physical harm or death.
- (e) Deliberately destroys or behaves dishonestly in relation to the property of the organisation, recklessly exposing it to danger or stealing from the organisation or members.
- (f) Carelessly passes on information that might be of substantial use to the opponents or enemies of the organisation.
- (g) Behaves corruptly or accepts any kind of bribes for performing or not performing any task on behalf of the organisation.
- (h) Engages in abuse of office or behaves in a manner as to obtain any other undue advantage from members or others.
- (i) Deals in illegal or abuses drugs or alcohol or other illegal or legal substances.
- (j) Sows factionalism or racism or sexism or tribalism or any other arbitrary behaviour in the organisation.
- (k) Behaves in such a way as to provoke serious divisions and a breakdown of unity in the organisation.
- (l) Undermines the respect for or impedes the functioning of a structure or committee of the organisation as well as its work and activities.
- (m) Violates or acts against a decision of constitutional structures or committees of the organisation.



- (n) Behaves in an ill-disciplined and aggressive manner and consumes alcohol during meetings or whilst on duty or during the activities of the organisation, unless of a social nature and in terms of which the behaviour shall be a responsible behaviour.
- (o) Behaves in an abusive and disrespectful manner towards other comrades.
- (p) Gossips, maliciously so as to set comrade against comrade, or becomes a wedge driver.
- (q) Acts carelessly in relation to the property of the organisation, including reckless or careless and unauthorised use of the organisations' property for personal gain.
- (r) Disrupts meetings and interferes with the orderly functioning of the organisation.
- (s) Commits an act of sexual harassment.
- (t) Behaves in a negligent manner that harms or threatens to harm the organisation and or its members.

4. Disciplinary procedures

4.1. The disciplinary procedures at all levels of the organisation shall be guided by the following principles:

- (a) Discipline should not be used as a means of stifling debate, or of denying members their basic democratic rights to debate.
- (b) Discipline should not be used as a means of solving individual problems or as interference into private lives, unless such conduct itself constitutes a violation or an offense affecting the organisation.
- (c) Any person faced with disciplinary proceedings shall receive:
 - (i) Due written notice stating the nature of the allegations, the date, time and venue of the disciplinary hearing and the name of the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee.
 - (ii) Reasonable opportunity to make his or her defence.
- (d) All disciplinary proceedings shall be attended to as speedily as possible.

5. Disciplinary structures, rules of procedures

5.1. Disciplinary structures

- (a) Disciplinary proceedings shall normally be conducted at the level where the alleged violation or offense took place, namely the branch, region, province or nationally, and may be heard by the relevant committee or structure.
- (b) The National Committee and Political Commission may direct that disciplinary proceedings should be heard at a higher level from where the alleged violation or offense took place.
- (c) The National Committee shall appoint a National Disciplinary Committee from amongst its ranks. Lower disciplinary committees shall be appointed at branch, district and provincial levels respectively by the Branch Committee, District Committee and Provincial Committee, and shall function under the same principles as the National Disciplinary Committee.
- (d) A Disciplinary Committee shall comprise of not less than five members in good standing.



- (e) The Chairperson shall represent the relevant leading committee and shall preside over the proceedings of the Disciplinary Committee, shall be responsible for, or shall cause, reporting on all the proceedings of the Disciplinary Committee to the relevant leading committee. If the Chairperson is conflicted in a specific case the relevant leading committee shall appoint a replacement from among the office bearers.

5.2. Rules of procedure

- (a) The National Committee or National Congress shall be the custodian of the Code of Conduct and where interpretation is sought.
- (b) A decision to subject a member to disciplinary proceedings shall be taken by a leading committee or structure of the YCLSA at the relevant level.
- (c) The case against a member facing disciplinary action shall proceed even if that member resigns or refuses to appear before a Disciplinary Committee.
- (d) In any disciplinary proceedings, any member who faces a charge/s shall only be represented by a member of the YCLSA who has been in good standing for a period of at least twelve months preceding the institution of the disciplinary proceedings.
- (e) No outside legal representation in disciplinary proceedings before the YCLSA is permitted.
- (f) Branches are permitted to suspend a member pending disciplinary inquiry and to conduct such an inquiry in line with the relevant provisions of the YCLSA Constitution and Code of Conduct, but a decision to suspend a member as a penalty shall be referred to the District Committee as a recommendation.
- (g) All disciplinary decisions taken at lower levels shall be reported to the National Committee which shall report to the National Council and National Congress.

5.3. Notice of disciplinary hearing

- (a) A written notice must be given at least fourteen working days before the date of a hearing.
- (b) The recipient of the notice must sign an acknowledgement receipt. If s/he refuses the notice shall be given in the presence of at least two witnesses who are YCLSA members in good standing.

5.4. Conducting a Disciplinary Hearing

- (a) A disciplinary hearing must be held within twenty-one working days after notification, unless the disciplinary committee entrusted by the relevant leading committee or structure requests for an extension from the relevant leading committee.
- (b) The Disciplinary Committee may call for the services of an interpreter or call for witnesses in order to reach an informed conclusion.
- (c) If a member fails to attend a hearing without any valid explanation given the disciplinary committee may continue with the hearing in the member's absence.
- (d) A decision or decisions of the Disciplinary Committee must be communicated to the affected person within twenty-one working days after the conclusion of



the hearing and the consideration of the Disciplinary Committee report by the relevant leading committee.

5.5. The right to appeal

- (a) Any member found guilty in a disciplinary proceeding at a lower level has the right, within twenty-one working days, to appeal against the finding/s or conviction or sentence, to the next level and if that level is not the level of National Committee, its outcomes may similarly be appealed to the level of National Committee. The outcome of an appeal handled at the level of the National Committee by the relevant committee shall be final and binding and no further appeal shall be made or entertained anywhere except for expulsion and which appeal shall only be made to or entertained by the relevant YCLSA committee or structure.
- (b) A member who is expelled by the National Committee may appeal to the next National Congress only, provided the appeal is received within twenty-one working days by the National Secretary who shall report it to the National Committee for noting and due processing. The outcome of the National Congress shall be final and binding and no further appeal shall be made or entertained anywhere.
- (c) Appeals shall be lodged in writing and shall provide the basis or a ground/s for appealing in a reasonable detail.
- (d) Any leading committee that receives an appeal on the outcome of a disciplinary proceeding held at the lower level of the organisation shall refer it to a Disciplinary Committee at its level which shall report back.
- (e) There shall be a National Disciplinary Committee of Appeals to handle appeals against the outcomes of a case that was handled by the National Disciplinary Committee, provided such a case was either initiated at:
 - (i) The national level or relates to alleged misconduct that occurred at the national level.
 - (ii) A lower level but the National Committee or the Political Commission decided that the matter must be handled at the National Committee level by the National Disciplinary Committee.
- (f) An appeal must be concluded within sixty working days unless an extension has been granted by the leading committee at the respective level or unless it is an appeal on expulsion destined for the National Congress.
- (a) The following shall apply when an appeal is being handled:
 - (i) Only the information, testimony and evidence presented during the disciplinary hearing shall be considered, and unless ruled otherwise, neither the complainant/s on behalf of the organisation nor the appealing member shall be given opportunity to submit any additional evidence.
 - (ii) No new charge/s may be brought at an appeal hearing, unless such is or are referred to an appropriate leading committee to consider.
 - (iii) The appeal outcome may either confirm, or rescind, or amend the initial finding, or penalty, or ruling.



- (b) A member who is expelled by the National Congress or by the National Committee implementing a decision of the National Congress to expel such a member shall be deemed to have appealed unsuccessfully.

6. Schedule of penalties or corrective measures

- (a) Should a member be found guilty of an offense s/he shall be liable to either or a combination of the following.
- (i) Censure or warning.
 - (ii) Imposition of corrective measures (e.g. but not limited to community work for a defined period, compulsory political education and ideological training sessions for a defined period).
 - (iii) A fine.
 - (iv) A temporary forfeiture of membership rights.
 - (v) A temporary suspension.
 - (vi) Expulsion, which may only be imposed by the National Committee or National Congress, lower structures may only recommend if they believe expulsion is the appropriate penalty.