



COPE™
CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE

Decisions of the
Meeting of the
Congress National
Committee Meeting
held at The Mannah
Lodge, Ekhuruleni

CNC 24-25 FEBRUARY 2018

COPE CNC@WORK





**DEAR MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS NATIONAL COMMITTEE (CNC);
MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE, AND
FELLOW SOUTH AFRICANS**

**Re: DECISIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE CONGRESS NATIONAL COMMITTEE HELD FROM THE
24-25 FEBRUARY 2018**

I am happy to communicate to you, on behalf of the Congress National Committee (CNC) of the Congress of the People (COPE), that the CNC met on the above dates and took decisions on various matters of which the following may be of interest to Members of the Party and Public;

The CNC meeting took place at an interesting time in our country when there is general public expectation for better things to come as a result of the resignation of President Zuma and the election of President Ramaphosa

The meeting joined with South Africans to express relief that a new era is upon us. The meeting noted that much still needs to change if the ruling party is to return to the era of President Mandela, whose centenary we are proud to celebrate. The leadership of the ruling party is still full of people who have a lot to answer to with respect to State capture and general corruption and respect for our constitution and the rule of law.

THE CNC therefore discussed the political situation and our response. The main focus of the meeting however was the finalisation of the 2nd Constitutional Amendment as directed by the 2nd Extra-Ordinary Congress of the Party which took place in Bloemfontein on the 16th December 2018 - the 9th anniversary of the founding of our Party.

THE PRINCIPLE	THE NEW CONSTITUTION	THE POLICY	THE EFFECT
	The basic unit of the Party is the Constituency (Metro or Local Municipality)	The focus of the Party is on voters so less time will be spent on administration of what used to be called branches	
ONE MEMBER ONE VOTE	The Constituency (Municipality), Province and National Leaders of the party for the will be elected by all members of the Party in that geographic space, not only those at the	This is consistent with our call that the President, Premier and Mayors of our country must be elected by the all South Africans as appropriate and not by a few people at a conference	This is an ambitious but worthy project which was adopted and inserted in the COPE constitution in 2014 as something to be progressively realised and is now adopted as



THE PRINCIPLE	THE NEW CONSTITUTION	THE POLICY	THE EFFECT
	<p>Constituency, Provincial or National Congresses</p>		<p>the principal way of electing leaders of the Party – a first in our country and perhaps even the world.</p>
<p>LEADERS OF THE PARTY WHO ARE LEADERS IN SOCIETY</p>	<p>Leaders of the Party will be the first on the list to represent the Party in the different legislatures at national, provincial and municipality spheres and the Party Leaders/ Chairpersons in the case of Provinces and Constituencies- will be the Party candidates for President, Premier and Mayor.</p> <p>Candidates will be required to share their vision for the place; national, province or municipality in which they are contesting as well as for the Party in that area.</p> <p>The same will apply for the Chapters.</p>	<p>This will solidify the impact of the work of comrades and give them access to more information that will help them with their service delivery objectives. It will also reduce tension between leaders in legislatures and those in Party structures only.</p>	<p>The election of leaders of the party will have the same criteria as for the public representatives and will therefore use the similar <i>Declaration of Availability and Readiness to serve</i> as the one used during Local Government elections of 2016</p>
<p>NEW STRUCTURES FOR THE COPE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT</p>	<p>In addition to the six members of the Executive Committee, allocating senior leaders for each structure- Deputy Women's Leader and Deputy Women's Secretary as part of the Office Bearers for each of the following;</p> <p>a) Young Women's Constituency matters</p>	<p>This structuring strengthens COPE's commitment to give more targeted focus to the needs of South Africa's women taking into account what is most important in the different constituency groups.</p>	



THE PRINCIPLE	THE NEW CONSTITUTION	THE POLICY	THE EFFECT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Rural Women's Constituency matters c) Urban Women's Constituency matters 		
NEW STRUCTURES FOR THE COPE STUDENTS' MOVEMENT	<p>In addition to the six members of the Executive Committee, allocating senior leaders for each structure- Deputy Students' Leader and Deputy Students' Secretary as part of the Office Bearers for each of the following;_</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) High School constituency b) Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) students' constituency c) University students' constituency 	<p>This structuring strengthens COPE's commitment to give more targeted focus to the needs of South Africa's students taking into account what is most important at the different educational institutions constituency groups.</p>	
NEW STRUCTURES FOR THE COPE YOUTH MOVEMENT	<p>In addition to the six members of the Executive Committee, allocating senior leaders for each structure- Deputy Youth Leader and Deputy Youth Secretary as part of the Office Bearers for each of the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) 18-20 years old Junior Youth e) 20-25 years old – Intermediate Youth 25-35 years old – Senior Youth 	<p>This structuring strengthens COPE's commitment to give more targeted focus to the needs of South Africa's youth, taking into account what is most important at the different age groups.</p>	



CONGRESSES AND CUT-OFF DATE	
Membership Cut Off date	31 May 2018
Constituency (Municipality) Congresses	January-March 2020 CNC will adopt procedures for the functioning of Constituency structures in the meantime
Provincial Congresses	By end of June 2018
2 nd National Congress	By end of July 2018

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE REPORT

The CEC gave a report on the implementation of the resolution of the CNC of 29 September 2017 with respect to the investigation and outcomes of the disciplinary enquiry against Patric Sikhutshi, Limpopo Chairperson and Member of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature. It was noted that the independent investigation into all of the finances in the Limpopo Legislature could not be implemented as Patric Sikhutshi did not cooperate with the auditors and the COPE office in the Legislature was locked up for the period the auditing team were in Polokwane, with no staff reporting for duty for 2 weeks. It was reported that the Legislature was requested to provide the auditors with financial information and it became evident that Patric Sikhutshi, the accounting officer, did not submit Financial Statements to the Legislature or Auditor General for the 2016/2017 financial year. The CNC received the report from the Independent Disciplinary Committee, dated 12 February 2018, finding Patric Sikhutshi guilty of 6 charges.

The CNC noted that Patric Sikhutshi tendered his resignation with immediate effect on the 16th of February 2018.

The CNC resolved to:

Accept the report of the Independent Disciplinary Committee.

Note the resignation of Patric Sikhutshi with effect 16 February 2018.

Mandate the CEC to institute an independent investigation into all of the finances in Limpopo Legislature in line with the resolution of 29 September 2017

Mandate the CEC to ensure that the Financials are completed for the 2016/2017 financial year including the current year.

Mandate the CEC to recover any monies not accounted for and or not spend in accordance with the rules, financial policies and laws, from Patric Sikhutshi.

Mandate the CEC to send a delegation of Members of the CEC to Limpopo to report on the findings of the disciplinary Committee



IEC REPRESENTATIVES

The CNC received a report from cde Vanita Coetzee as COPE's National Representative serving on the NPLC (IEC National Party Liaison Committee) with respect to the Address Harvesting weekend of the 10th and 11th of March 2018. The meeting noted that COPE currently only has one representative serving on the NPLC. Taking into consideration that NPLC meetings are held in Gauteng it was recommended that COPE's second representative should be a Member residing in Gauteng.

The CNC resolved to -

Mandate the CEC to process and finalise the names of the representatives attending meetings of the IEC.

Mandate the CEC to have an Electronic Social Media Campaign for Address Harvesting Weekend

The President provided a political overview on the current affairs in the Country. The recording will be made available to all Members of the Congress of the People

Issued by:

Ms Lyndall Shope-Mafole

General Secretary