

SPEAKING NOTES FOR KZN ANC CHAIRPERSON, CDE SENZO MCHUNU DURING SANCO PEC MEETING AT COASTLAND - UMHLANGA

Programme Director

Guests of Honour

Comrade and Friends

GREETINGS

I would like to extend our warmest revolutionary greetings and gratitude to the SANCO PEC for extending invitation to us as comrades. It is always appreciated that as comrades we continue to meet in this fashion and share our ideas about taking our revolution forward, in that process in providing the quality of life of our people. By meeting regularly in this comradely manner, it augurs very well for our Alliance.

CONGRATULATE SANCO PEC

On behalf of the Alliance, the ANC, I take this opportunity to congratulate SANCO for its consistent approach of making it a habit to meet and discuss the progress of the organization, as well as to try to resolve challenges that might crop out. There can be a hope for the future if we all holistically emulate this type of approach. I therefore unreservedly congratulate the SANCO PEC as well as all other comrades.

SANCO – TRUE MOVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE

Comrades, the space of SANCO as the true and committed movement of the people is severely contested. There are many organizations that envy the role that you play throughout the country, even individuals who want to kick-start their political careers have

to first contend with SANCO. It is in this context that more often, SANCO must ask itself if it is still a relevant and true movement representing ordinary people.

- Are we still in touch with the ordinary people?

In spite of so much attack facing the governing ANC, the first step is to attack its pillars such as SANCO. It can be very naïve to look what is taking place at COSATU and not think that the possible next step is SANCO.

- You need to be at the grass roots to feel the pulse of communities.
- You need to know of any single protest or service delivery protest that is planned.
- We need to be the first to raise issues with our counselors if things are not alright.

It remains our responsibility to ensure that we correct the situation. SANCO has represented the aspirations of the working class for many years. Proliferation of other organizations which purports to represent the people such as Abahlali BaseMjondolo, and others should indicate that we have dropped our guards.

FIGHT AND DEFEND UNITY AT SANCO

For any organization to live and deliver on its objectives, unity is paramount. Let all members of SANCO rally around this organization and only ensure its success by delivering on its mandate. Only organizations which are united can serve their constituency better. We are all the servants of the people, it is important to continue to humble ourselves. Organizations are now consumed by factionalism because some of us have become too big and fall outside of the discipline of the organization. There can be no ANC without SANCO. SANCO is the biggest ally of the governing ANC, so when you

fail, the ANC also fail. Our internal differences must be managed properly. This is the only way how we can sustain our unity.

OUR ALLIANCE WAS FORGED IN THE TRENCHES

When we defend SANCO, we defend the ANC by implications. We are not just closing ranks, but our internal criticism must be properly channeled with the view to find solutions. It is normal to be critical, but not to take internal issues outside of the alliance. We must continue to introspect of who really benefit the most if SANCO or the ANC is weak. Our togetherness is not just a fashionable alliance forged by convenience, but it was formed in the trenches. We owe it to our masses to deliver on our promise of a better life for all.

ALLIANCE IS SEVERELY STRAINED

Comrades, you have seen what happened on the platinum belt in 2012 and thereafter, you have seen what is happening at COSATU, and in many parts of our province where sporadic so-called service delivery protests are taking place.

- Has these protests just happened spontaneously?
- What triggers them?
- Is it really service delivery protests?
- Where are we as custodians of the people when these things happen?
- Are we not just taking much time focusing on our own issues, in the process end up forgetting our constituencies?
- Do we still hold each other accountable be it a counselor, mayor, etc., or we are just greasing the deal that we expect in return to our silence?

We have a responsibility of building this Alliance together. It can only be built by strong people who are honest to the very cause that made them to join SANCO and the ANC.

On behalf of the Alliance, I take this opportunity to wish you all the best in your PEC meeting.

I thank you