

autocratic powers within the former homelands boundaries. This undoing changed the balance of power that enables women to speak for themselves in many rural areas.

The Bill entrenches the problems that women are often not allowed to speak for themselves in customary courts, but must depend on male relatives. It says men can represent women and vice versa, according to customary law. It therefore pretends to put men and women in an equal position, but nobody has ever heard of a wife representing her husband according to customary law.

This has serious consequences especially for widows, in cases involving distribution of assets belonging to their late husbands. Widows have to be represented by the same male relatives who are threatening them with eviction, or claiming their property. The Bill also does not ensure that women will be involved in debating cases, even though this would make the courts less intimidating for women and would also address the common problems of male elders siding with other men.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Framework Act provides that traditional leaders and councils can be given roles in a wide range of areas in which government functions. It also provides that traditional councils can deliver services to rural people through 'service delivery agreements' with municipalities.

Effectively the new laws create a fourth tier of government headed by chiefs. In addition, the TCB creates a separate legal regime for such areas. People living in rural areas become tribal subjects rather than South African citizens.

Those living within the tribal boundaries of the Bantustans established by the Bantu Authorities Act 1951 will be affected. These areas are by far the poorest in South Africa and the majority of the people who live there are women who make up 59%. The Bill also affects people not living in these areas who may be summoned before the traditional court if accused of a local offence. Refusal to appear is considered a criminal offence.

It is not surprising that rural people complain that government is throwing them away because they are poor.

In the process it is throwing away the vision of a unitary South Africa with equal citizenship that was achieved in 1994, and trading it for the old Bantustan map of authoritarian chiefly power. So we are all affected. ■

Disturbing ANCYL goings on

The African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) has lost its way by divorcing itself from the mother body, writes **Mothusi Tsitsing**.

The ANCYL of today is unlike that of comrade Tata Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo and Anton Lembede. The ANCYL of Ronald Lamola continuously mobilises against policies and organisational principles of its mother body, the ANC.

It is evidently clear that this thorny behaviour is a danger to our organisation. It is like a stupid son who keeps on abusing his mother in the name freedom of expression and demands for change to his own family structure.

We can illustrate this through national elections which we won by 62.6% in 1994, 66.4% in 1999 and 65.9% in 2009. In the elections the voice of young people through the ANCYL and the Progressive Youth Alliance structures were central in mobilising young people around the banner of the ANC.

But since Julius Malema took over the leadership reins as president of the Youth League, the voice of the ANCYL was replaced by that of Malema the individual. The ANCYL deteriorated badly, declining to a dangerous anarchic state towards its mother body. One would be forgiven for mistaking it to be the youth league of the Democratic Alliance (DA).

The decline of the Youth League has reached such low levels that if things remain the way they are we are not going to produce leaders who will take the ANC to the 'promised land'; that united, non-

racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.

For instance, during the 2011 local government elections the ANCYL took their eyes off the ball by starting factional tussles for leadership positions. They then suspended their local government election campaign and concentrated their efforts on internal power struggles.

Previous leaders of the Youth League would never have neglected their revolutionary duties to defend the ANC's electoral gains for personal ambitions and gains such as access to tenders and job opportunities. As a result, this gigantic elephant suffered dearly in the local government polls.

It is clear that the ANC's performance in the 2004 local government elections where the ANC won by 69.7% of votes was not repeated in 2011 in which the ANC achieved a lowly 62.9%. The decline of 6.8% in the polls has given the DA confidence that very soon they will take over from the ANC. This is a question as to how will history remember this disappointing era of Lamola and Malema?

The 5,000 strong delegates of the youth who attended ANCYL congress were supposed to make sure that the ANC wins the election with an overwhelming majority, but were never there to defend the ANC-led government in its run up to the local elections. Today it is the same Lamola leadership that is mobilising anti-ANC formations known as 'Friends of the Youth League'. This new political formation is organising anti-ANC rallies across the country in the same manner the Congress of the People was launched by Terror Lekota and company.

It must be noted that this new political organisation is funded by faceless sympathisers of Julius Malema to undermine the ANC and its leadership, to continuously



Supporter of former ANCYL president Julius Malema during the March against labour brokers and e-tolling, Johannesburg, March 2012.

bring divisions, misguide the youth and drag down the name of the ANC. This defiance seriously undermines the ANC policies and we must ask ourselves who is funding these campaigns and in whose interest.

Who are the financial backers of the so-called Asijiki campaign and what are they eyeing to benefit after the achievement of their intended programme? Is this campaign about leadership change or the rise of the individual? Who are its beneficiaries? This new Friends of Youth League does not have any programme – radical or mild – to advance the interests of young people in our lifetime.

The only known programme of Lamola's league and his battalions is to invade ANC gatherings with the sole aim of disrupting speakers, sowing divisions, bringing the party into disrepute, and cause confusion; whilst neglecting the primary task expected of youth leaguers all over the world.

Vladimir Lenin says the important 'revolutionary task' of the youth is to learn, learn and learn.

However, it is important to note that the ANCYL has been hijacked by reactionary forces; it is under internal attacks from anti-ANC elements in our ranks masquerading as leaders. In the end the truth will come out.

The financial backers who subsidise the ANCYL members to neglect their roles towards the youth and within the ANC will eventually be exposed. In fact who said ANCYL needs friends?

Are members of this so-called 'Friends of the ANCYL' not the same people who were benefiting from youth organisations and institutions of youth development in government? If today's ANCYL does not understand its role as the young lions of the ANC; then let the Young Communist League of South Africa, South African Students Congress, South African Youth Council and all progressive youth organisations stand up to defend the real ANC Youth League from the tenderpreneur hyenas. ^{LE}

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