

Ideas, branches & campaigns...

Building WASP

Kagiso: branch blitz campaign

Xolani Mashalaba Kagiso branch chair

Kagiso branch organised a blitz month in September to raise the profile of WASP in our area. We distributed WASP pamphlets from three different public areas in Kagiso. More than 40 people gave their contact numbers, interested to join and take part in branch meetings. Seven copies of our Izwi magazine were sold throughout the blitz period. Kagiso is a new branch and this was an important step forward for WASP in the West Rand.



Kagiso branch blitz

Eastern Cape: district meeting

Thamsanqa Dumezweni Eastern Cape

Members from Flagstaff, Bizana and Lusikisiki met on 11 September. The meeting was the first in a new plan to regularly bring WASP members together across this large area for political discussions, education and campaign planning. Even though the meeting was small, those attending were serious about building our party and a good basis to go forward. The next cadre meeting will take place on 9 October and be followed subsequently by bi-monthly meetings interspersed with local weekly branch meetings.

Political Education

Political education is at the centre of what it means to be a member of WASP. For a revolutionary party like ours a politically educated and trained membership is essential. One of the requirements of being a member of WASP is a commitment to take part in political education.

This approach stands in stark contrast to parties like the ANC, DA and EFF. Unlike WASP, their leaders have no ambition beyond taking over the management of capitalism. They see a politically educated membership as a threat to enjoying the privileges of office. For them the masses are only voting fodder requiring their 'cadre' to be shallow careerists and 'yes men'. The leaders of these parties are not interested in mass struggles for higher wages, service delivery or free education. A politically independent working class or youth movement with its own democratic organisations and activists who can think for themselves are a potential challenge.

But tireless and systematic political education is a practical necessity in a revolutionary party. With political education comes the confidence to organise and lead struggle for immediate improvements in the living standards of the working class and youth. WASP works to arm our members with an understanding of the revolutionary ideas of Marxism that can guide the day-to-day struggles in the workplaces, the communities and on the campuses and connect them to the struggle for a socialist society. In turn, participation in struggle further enriches our ideas allowing us to continually sharpen our theoretical weapons.

Further, political education is vital to strengthen the democracy of the party and the accountability of leaders. Political education allows members to draw conclusions about new political developments and their impact on the work of the party; to take decisions about the tactics necessary for successful struggle; and to assess the correctness or otherwise of the decisions and direction given by the leadership.



WASP has a twelve part education programme. New members should aim to cover one each month, completing the course in their first year of membership. The topics include suggestions for readings, all of which are available on the WASP website and in printed booklets.

Build the struggle – build WASP's finances

WASP has no big business backers. We are a party funded by the cents and Rands of our members and supporters. We ask readers of *Izwi* to donate and support our work.

Bank: ABSA **Acc no:** 4081935745 **Branch code:** 632005

Members should use this account to pay in their monthly subscriptions.