



#### Physical Address

380 Bosman Street  
Lapa Uitgewers Building  
1<sup>ST</sup>floor, Office No: 101  
Pretoria 0001

Fax: 086 605 0996 - Tell: +27 12 3235073

29/11/2022 Web: [www.sanaco.coop](http://www.sanaco.coop)

To: National Assembly

Re: SANACO report to the National Assembly.

### 1. Introduction

The South African National Apex Cooperative is one of the fraternal organisations of the Party. It seeks to advance the struggle of the working class and the poor through the establishment and coordination of Cooperatives in South Africa.

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has tilted the global balance of forces and SANACO is not spared from this farce. The world of work needs to be redefined as the sitting rooms and kitchens have now become a place of work. Workers have to use their own spaces which also contribute into high households energy consumption. It is quite evident that workers around the world are losing their jobs. This job losses are compounded by the 4th Industrial revolution whose primary tenant is to replace human beings with robots/machines.

The cooperatives movement in South Africa and beyond is needed now more than ever in our history. Retrenched workers have to be organized through cooperatives to respond to the current challenges. It is also critical that as the movement of cooperatives we play a role in re-skilling the retrenched workers and organize them into worker cooperatives.

**SANACO Executive Board Members** | **President** Mr. Lawrence Bale, **Deputy President** Mr. Sam Rakoto, **Secretary General** Mr. Muzi Phewa, **Deputy Secretary General** Mr. Lawrence Monyahi, **Treasurer** Violet Ntibane.



The Russian military operation in Ukraine has exposed us as a country on overreliance to other country on basic necessities such as cooking oil. South Africa has vast lands and a hospitable conditions for sunflower production, but the working class and the poor have to pay exorbitant price on cooking oil due to overreliance on import of basic commodities. But there is a long list of basic commodities that we unnecessarily import from other countries. Some even do dumping of food products to South Africa which ultimately affect the sustainability of local industry.

## 2. On the international front

### 21. Involvement in the ICA

SANACO as an affiliate of the International Cooperatives Alliance (ICA) continue to foster global solidarity amongst cooperatives of the world. This is in line with the cooperative principle of cooperation amongst cooperatives. SANACO is a member in good standing of the ICA. The movement continues to contribute into B20 engagements particularly on cooperatives. The ICA places the Sustainable Development Goals at the center of its developmental path.

### 22. The role in ICAO

The President of SANACO Mr. Lawrence Bale is tipped to become the Deputy President of the International Organisation of Agricultural Cooperatives (ICAO). ICAO is a platform for agricultural cooperatives globally to come together ensuring that there is global food security.

### 23. BRICS Cooperative Leaders

SANACO is part of the BRICS Cooperative Leaders and continues to chair this platform for cooperatives within the BRICS trade block. Meetings of the BRICS Cooperative Leaders was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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**COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES BUILD A BETTER WORLD**



The BRICS Cooperative Leaders provides space for dialogue and trade amongst cooperative movements in the BRICS block.

#### 24. Southern African Confederation of Cooperatives

The movement in South African is part of the SADC based federations of cooperatives. The primary intent is to facilitate trade between and amongst the cooperatives in the SADC region. The government of Botswana has provided an office for the ICASA Southern African region. They also seconded staff members who are going to mend the office until the movement in the sub region is self-sufficient. President Lawrence Bale is the interim chairperson of the sub regional office.

There is a meeting of the sub region that will be held in Lesotho from the 14-16 December 2022.

#### 3. Towards the establishment of a single apex body in South Africa

The cooperatives sector in South Africa is currently in the process of aligning to the Cooperatives Act No. 06 of 2013. At the heart of the Act is the establishment of a single Apex body in South Africa. There is currently an initiative to build one strong and vibrant cooperative movement. We would like to thank Minister and Deputy Minister of Small Business Development for their unwavering support and commitment towards the establishment of a single apex body.

#### 4. About the implementation of the Cooperatives Act N. 6 of 2013.

SANACO would like to congratulate the Minister of Small Business Development for her commitment and support for cooperatives. We have noted her willingness to engage with all relevant stakeholders as well as reinstating the incentives scheme for cooperatives.

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The Act has called for the establishment of the Cooperatives Development Agency, Cooperatives Advisory Council, Cooperatives Academy as well as the Cooperatives Tribunal. We heed a call to the Minister to involve cooperatives in the appointment of individuals to serve in these initiatives.

#### 5. The role of SANACO at NEDLAC

SANACO is part of the NEDLAC Community constituency with its President Mr Lawrence Bale serving as one of its principals. Part of the discussion ensuing at NEDLAC is the discussion on the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP). At the center of the ERRP is localization. As the movement of cooperatives, we are happy to form part of the policy dialogue at NEDLAC.

One of the critical programs of the NEDLAC Community Constituency is our commitment on the Masakhane campaign. The campaign was derived from NEDLAC community constituency engagements and its commitments on the Eskom Social Compact. The Masakhane campaign needs drivers to make it a success.

#### 6. Programmes and projects

One of the primary roles of SANACO is advocacy and lobbying on behalf of cooperatives in South Africa. The current Executive of SANACO is as follows:

President - Mr Lawrence Bale

Deputy President - Mr Sam Rakoto

Secretary General - Mr Muzi

Phewa

Deputy Secretary General - Mr

Lawrence Monyahi Treasurer - Ms Violet Ntibane

The movement has over the years sustained itself through programmes and projects. Training remains one of the areas of focus by the cooperative movement. Over 500 young women and men were trained since the last reporting period to parliament.



## 7. Conclusion

SANACO remains committed in consolidating and strengthening support for cooperatives in South Africa. The COVID-19 pandemic together with the military operation by Russia in Ukraine has exposed the inability of the capitalist system to sustain itself under a crisis.

SANACO remains a strategic center for the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan as espoused by the President of the Republic of South Africa His Excellency Matamela Ramaphosa.

For further information contact Lawrence Monyahi on 0827448229 or [presidentrsacoop@gmail.com](mailto:presidentrsacoop@gmail.com).

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