




# NEDLAC, UNION INVESTMENT COMPANIES, THE TRIPARTITE ALLIANCE AND THE SHOCK OF THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW ECONOMIC POLICIES

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## Autobiography

Ranson Sifiso Gwala is a PhD Candidate at the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) studying towards a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA). He is working for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD). He is a Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) member of the South African Communist Party (SACP) in KwaZulu Natal, heading issues dealing with International Developments affecting the people of the world. He is also a Provincial Spokesperson of the SACP in the province. He has co-published one peer reviewed article titled, "*Corporate governance and firm performance in the fourth industrial revolution: A systematic Literature review*". He is an avid reader and an enthusiastic academic want to be. He was born in Ndwedwe, KwaZulu Natal but now resides between Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

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There are no acknowledgements that I am willing to make. I am the only person who worked on this paper.

## DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.



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## Abstract

This paper aims to explore the impact of the new worker policies which ended up agreeing on the formation of National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC). The paper shall seek to analyse the operations and the political ideological inclination of the NEDLAC as a structure. It will further look at the hot potatoes that is the union investment arms. It will delve and interview at least two union General Secretaries to seek to understand the influence and gains of establishing investment arms and to what extent those have been abused by union leaders. It will further look at the tripartite alliance policy formulation, agreements and disagreements on economic policies. The conflicting ideologies that are held by the tripartite alliance and how these ideologies have played themselves within the tripartite alliance and the state. The contradictions have been played out in worker struggles, marches and pickets to display these contradictions and disagreements. Some have seen the now open and then closed internal tussle for power within the ANC in particular and alliance partners in support of these contending viewpoints. This has been translated into government economic policies, among these are the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) strategy, the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative - South Africa (ASGISA), the New Growth Path (NGP) and the National Development Plan (NDP); and lately the South Africa's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (SAERRP) or (ERRP). Lastly how these have advanced the tripartite alliance's programme known as the National Democratic Revolution (NDR).

**Key Words:** NEDLAC; unions, federation, investment arms, tripartite alliance; government; economic policies, National Democratic Revolution (NDR).