

The Shopsteward

The official publication of the Congress of South African Trade Unions

Volume 29.3 • COSATU News Publication • Aug/Sept 2021



35th

ANNIVERSARY

Est. 1985

editors note

The latest issue of the Shopsteward Magazine arrives at a time when the federation is convening its four-day Central Committee (CC) meeting. This is an important meeting that ensures that the federation does not just comply with its Constitutional obligations but that it also accounts to the members on its work.

Therefore, the key task of the CC is to review progress in the implementation of our programme of action to date, to consider organisational and socioeconomic policies and to identify key tasks and challenges to constitute our programme of action in the build up to the 14th National Congress next year. Accordingly, the CC discussed the international context, national political situation, socioeconomic assessment, and organisational assessment.

The CC is convened amid a qualitatively different socio-political context since last year, which internationally is chiefly marked by a generalised economic crisis engulfing global capitalism, because of COVID-19, including the South African economy. Therefore, the meeting is tasked with reflecting upon the nature and character, the impact, and implications of the totality of these global and domestic developments within the context of our strategic political orientation as a federation and our programme of action.

The CC shall then pronounce on the way forward regarding the trajectory, the forces at the helm and the steps necessary to heighten working class power, influence, and active mobilisation towards socialism.

The essence of COSATU policy remains guided by the principle and affirmation of workers' rights to effective and full participation in matters affecting their lives at the workplace, national, international and community level.



Bheki Ntshalintshali
Editor in Chief

Our full presence in all public affairs, policy influencing structures and decision-making bodies remain fundamental.

The economy continues to be greatly affected by COSATU loadshedding and the federation has intervened in this by submitting the Eskom Social Compact that was adopted by other social partners.

This was important because there was a real danger of Eskom collapsing and then being privatised and its workers retrenched.

There is now a work stream at Nedlac monitoring its implementation by Eskom and government. Some progress has been achieved like the recovering of several billions of stolen funds, the freezing of some assets, the voluntary reduction in senior management and their redeployment to power stations from Head Office.

There are also progressive proposals for just transition programmes for those power stations reaching the end of the life spans. More needs to be done to intensify the tackling of corruption and wasteful expenditure, including the prosecuting of the accused. Work needs to begin on manufacturing renewable energy technology components locally.

If Independent Power Producers are to exist, then workers and communities must become owners too. The IPPs must be required to procure locally produced material like cement, solar panels etc. They must be required to employ former mine and energy workers who may have lost their jobs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also been a very busy time for COSATU. The Federation has been participating in engagements at Nedlac daily on measures to provide relief to workers, the unemployed and the economy.

These include UIF COVID TERS and the R350 unemployment grants.

The nation is also facing a crisis of many SOEs that are facing collapse. Some have been resuscitated like SAA, while others are collapsing like Denel, PRASA, SABC, SAPO.

What is clear is that the SOEs have been run into the ground, they have been brought to the point of collapse by mismanagement, corruption, and structural changes in the economy.

What is needed are clear plans to save these SOEs, to set them on a sustainable path, to save jobs and not to send workers into the unemployment queue. If we do not provide these plans, then many of these SOEs will simply die. We are happy that Cde Mike Shingange and Cde Tony Ehrenreich have been appointed to represent Labour in the Presidential SOE Council that will develop such plans.

We are also happy with the discussions around the extension of the R350 Covid-19 Grant beyond March 2022, and ultimately to be made permanent and increased in line with the food poverty level of R624. It is a steppingstone to achieving a Basic Income Grant for those with no source of income.

However, we do need to address the worrying economic trends where social grants are the largest source of income in rural areas. This is dangerous and not sustainable.

Covid-19 has produced unprecedented challenges to workers, the economy, government, and the nation at large. COSATU has been part of daily engagements at Nedlac to manage and fight this pandemic. We encourage workers across the country to vaccinate to save lives and the economy. Business and the Department of Employment and Labour are still pushing for compulsory vaccinations

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Bheki Ntshalintshali **EDITOR:** Norman Mampane **LAYOUT & DESIGN:** Nthabiseng Makhajane

EDITORIAL BOARD: Bheki Ntshalintshali, Norman Mampane, Sizwe Pamla, Nthabiseng Makhajane

SUBSCRIPTION & DISTRIBUTION: : Nthabiseng Makhajane **PRINTERS:** Shereno Printers

ADVERTISING SALES: Nthabiseng Makhajane **Tel:** +27 (0)10 219 1341 **Fax:** 086 481 6163

Email: nthabiseng@cosatu.org.za 110 Jorissen & Simmonds Street, Braamfontein, 2001 PO Box 1019, Johannesburg 2000

Tel: +27 (0)11 339 4911 **Fax:** +27 (0)11 339 5080/6940 www.cosatu.org.za

© Copyright 2009. All rights reserved.

Editorial Note

based upon their obligations to ensure safe workplaces.

The Federation prefers the process of engagement, education to encourage workers to vaccinate and not coercion.

This discussion will continue but we need to ensure that we all vaccinate.

This year's round of negotiations has been very difficult with employers pushing for wage freezes over the last two years, but our unions are resilient

in the face of this attacks on collective bargaining. We plan to convene protests on the 07 October, the International Day for Decent Work to highlighting our opposition to the government austerity cuts, retrenchments and attacks on collective bargaining.

The austerity cuts have hit the CCMA hard. The institution has been under enormous strain because 2.2 million workers lost their jobs in 2020.

Millions lost wages and other benefits and many of these workers turned to the CCMA for relief and protection.

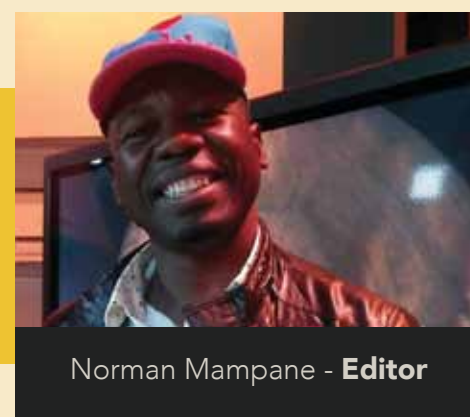
The budget cuts have meant that the number of Commissioners employed have been greatly reduced. Engagements are ongoing on how to resolve it and where money can be found.

Lastly, we hope to come out of this

Central Committee more united and stronger with the energy to confront our challenges and resolve them. We urge workers to unite and actively participate in the recruitment drive of the federation. We need to grow our numbers because there is strength in numbers.

We again salute our health workers for their sterling job in fighting COVID -19 and let us help them by vaccinating.

word from the editor



Norman Mampane - Editor

Worker's education must sustain us through the Covid-19 crisis!

"Whoever wants to know a thing has no way of doing so except by coming into contact with it, that is, by living (practicing) in its environment. ... If you want knowledge, you must take part in the practice of changing reality. If you want to know the taste of a pear, you must change the pear by eating it yourself.... If you want to know the theory and methods of revolution, you must take part in revolution. All genuine knowledge originates in direct experience." - Mao

South African Workers have gone through the worst of times since the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus in which many breadwinners were lost through death, many kids lost schooling days, numerous cases of teenage pregnancy were registered at various schools and the number of infected citizens is still dominant in provinces such as Northern Cape and Free State. It is through worker's

education that we would attain zero pandemic workplaces, by ensuring that Occupational Health and Safety legislation is implemented to the latter, re-establish workable Workplace Safety Committee and having dedicated trade union teams to empower all workers about non pharmaceutical procedures such as hand washing, mask wearing at the point of production to be safe.

In this Edition, we reflection on the lessons learnt from the Marikana tragedy, and we join all mining industry role-players to demand economic justice for the toilers of the hard earth!

May all victims of the Marikana tragedy rest in peace!

We continue to celebrate the SACP Centenary and acknowledge the progressive contributions by trade unionists, trade unions and federations in the building of the Party since 1921. Happy birthday to the Vanguard of workers!

Communities have seen the worst looting of properties, burning of workplaces which has left thousands jobless or with no livelihoods. It's pathetic!

We continue to condemn such barbaric actions and commend the social partners for coming to the party to engage and come up with some form of relief measures to all those affected.

Organisation rebuilding, reengineering of campaigning on the ground is a dialectical process and it is consciously undertaken to deliberately strength the organic engines of the organization. We applaud all affiliated trade unions for engaging in worker's education under these difficult conditions.

"...You have nothing to lose except the chains of oppression and exploitation".

Vaccination campaigns are very critical to establish immunity community to curb further spread of the virus.

Essential workers must use

their labour power to demand better working conditions as they carried the nation during this difficult period in history. We must end collective begging during collective bargaining!

And for all those who have died from complications because of the pandemic, may their families be comforted. May their souls rest in peace!

On the International front, we have seen massive Solidarity Actions with the people of Cuba, Palestine and Swaziland against economic blockade by the US regime, the pickets against the Israeli regime who continued to oppress Palestinians and also the recent re-emergence of the brutal beatings and killings of innocent Swazis by eSwatini regime which sparked solidarity actions from across the globe respectively. We must strengthen worker to worker solidarity in every corner of the globe!

In the African continent,

Covid-19 has deepened challenges related to poverty, labour migration, disease management and human rights abuses and it demands coalescence of all progressive contributions, to fight back against the repressive regimes to win back our freedom and normalcy expected by us all.

Vaccine supply challenges, hesitancy amongst the age groups and lack of local production of the vaccines must be tackled by the World Health Organization [WHO] and all African states.

Only 12 African countries have reached the global target of 10% milestone of vaccinating the population before September 2021 and it is not enough!

'Vaccines are a key tool to prevent severe illness and death from the virus' - WHO Africa Region

**Workers of the world Unite!
It is not yet Uhuru!**

LET'S PLAY OUR ROLE

in assisting the children and the relatives of the 44 workers killed and those injured to find a closure

- NUM on the aftermath of Marikana

by William Makgabo Mabapa

It is unfortunate that this event, which happened in 2012, has been projected to be belonging to a certain trade union, and that on its own, it happens at the expense of the plight of the entire workforce in the platinum sector.

Workers were affected cut across trade union allegiance. Most importantly it exposed lack of an integration of the industry and national transformation by way of giving black mineworkers sufficient compensation and accommodation to reclaim their human dignity.

These are political realities beyond trade unions segmentation and all of us should not claim narrow political victories but championing workers unity to advance the aspiration of those who died and those still alive, which was to have a caring industry.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) still maintains today that the instability and the strikes that engulfed the platinum belts were politically motivated. As part of the political plan, the hatred against the union increased and is still being maintained, and as a result, that on its own is making negotiations very difficult.

The NUM campaigned successfully in the 1980s for the end of the job

reservation system, a system which ensured that the best-paid jobs were allocated to whites.

The South African mining industry has been transformed since the end of apartheid, with vast improvements in workers' rights and issues of health and safety been improved.

The NUM has always maintained its diversified approaches when it comes to wage demands. The approach has always been to diversify its demands to be broader than just being in money gain.

The NUM has played an important role in bringing about the changes. However, issues remain, especially regarding housing and many mineworkers now choose to live in shanty towns.

The mining industry was one of South Africa's major employers in the apartheid era. The industry was very racist during apartheid, and gave the example of the Mines and Works Act, which prohibited black workers from holding high positions. South Africa possesses a large amount of mineral wealth, including diamonds, gold, ore and platinum, and the apartheid mining system was based on the exportation of these natural resources.

Working conditions in the mines were very poor, and there was an overall lack of welfare for the mineworkers, especially with regards to accommodation. A migrant worker system existed and a large number of the mineworkers were recruited from countries such as Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland and Malawi.

South Africa's mineral wealth was nationalised in 2000, and the government now owns all minerals above and below ground.

The NUM has been successful in increasing wages for mineworkers, and it should be accepted that these wages still remained very low. Mineworkers' wages are still determined by a job-grading system based on the apartheid structure.

Since its establishment in 1982, the NUM has fought barriers for employment and attempted to increase mineworkers' welfare by obtaining training for the workers, and improving the conditions of the mines and the workers' living accommodation.

Through the advancements made by the NUM, legislation were passed on issues such as labour relations, skills development, equity and health and safety. These new acts have helped transform the mining industry

from the poor state it was in during apartheid. The specific case could be that of the Mines Health and Safety Act. Thousands of mineworkers died in the mines before, compared to just a few now.

The NUM has pushed for a single bargaining unit, but companies in the platinum industry continue to bargain individually and compete with each other over pay levels.

The employers were not negotiating in good faith and were bargaining outside of the council.

Largely, this arrogance by companies contributed largely to the problems in the platinum industry leading up to the unfortunate killings of 44 mineworkers in and around the platinum belts of Rustenburg, in particular the striking Lonmin workers.

As we commemorate the event, we should all of us play our role in assisting the children and the relatives of the 44 workers killed and those injured to find a closure. We should all preach unity and reconciliation of workers irrespective of trade union affiliation.

**By William Makgabo Mabapa -
NUM Acting-General Secretary**

Happy 100th birthday SACP

'We salute you/Siyabonga',
We are workers of the South Africa,
We are led by Vanguard Party,
Something that we cannot forget about you South African Communist Party!

You were like a lamp in darkness,
Showing us way to South Africa,
Showing us way to Africa,
Showing us way to the world,
They say one line, one light, one path, to the future.

Phambili ngomzabalazo, phambili ngenkululeko,
Phambili ngomzabalazo, not yet Uhuru,
Socialism is my future....

We salute, South African Communist Party
We salute, parties of the world
We salut' amakomanisi,
We salut' amabomvane,
We salut' amakomanisi siyabonga'.

Hoo Siyabonga' hoo siyabonga, hoo siyabonga amakomanisi,
Amakominisi, amabomvane,
Amakominisi Siyabonga.

They say one line, one light, one path, to the future,
Phambili ngomzabalazo, phambili ngenkululeko,
Phambili ngomzabalazo, not yet uhuru.

Qhubelani phambili carry on
Qhubelani phambili carry on, carry on
Qhubelani phambili carry on
Qhubelani phambili carry on, carry on
Qhubelani phambili,
Qhubelani phambili.

by Thobile Maso

SACP celebrates 100 YEARS of existence!

The South African Communist Party launched its 100 years celebration since it was established in July 30, 1921. The Chinese Communist Party was founded in Shanghai on July 23, 1921.

The event coincided with the centenary celebrations of the Communist Party of China which held massive demonstrations, with loud voices overheard of school children, party members and the populace singing, 'Without the Chinese Communist Party, There would be no New China' and also 'Socialism is Good'.

In South Africa, the South African Communist Party which was earlier known as the Communist Party of South Africa [CPSA] commenced with the celebrations through a virtual launching session in which the SACP General Secretary, Dr Blade Nzimande shared some of the milestones of the Party.

The event was duly attended by Alliance partners, the African National Congress, the South African Congress of Trade Unions, structures of the party, international allies in the African continent and abroad. Dr. Blade Nzimande said 'Today, July 4, we are launching the SACP centenary celebration programme. It is a great honour and privilege to me to deliver the opening statement of the SACP centenary celebration programme. We will deliver the main centenary statement on 1 August 2021.

The month of July 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the South African Communist Party (SACP) as the Communist Party of South Africa. The Communist Party was founded at a three-day conference held on 30 and 31 July and 1 August 1921 in Cape Town. The founding of the Communist Party had been announced at a public rally held on 29 July 1921 in the Cape Town City Hall. However, it was not until the following day, 30 July 1921, that the founding conference delegates adopted a report and formally passed a resolution formally establishing the Communist Party of South Africa.



We had planned to hold a hybrid rally in Cape Town. However, we could not proceed with the plan, due to the third surge of the COVID-19 infections rapidly rising in our country. A day before planned hybrid session, South Africa identified over 24,000 COVID-19 positive cases. Since the first COVID-19 positive case was detected in the country in March 2020, South Africa confirmed approximately 2,02 million COVID-19 positive cases. We had approximately 1,8 million recoveries, while we lost just over 61,300 lives to the deadly virus. South Africa administered about 3,3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

While this is progress, we still have a long way to go in our vaccination journey. Our centenary theme is "Put People Before Profits", and it is guided by our Party's strategic slogan, "Socialism is the Future—Build it Now". Until we have overcome the deadly virus, we must adhere to the COVID-19 preventative measures, including lockdown regulations, to protect life.

The pandemic crisis

We also need to tackle the political economy of COVID-19 vaccines, particularly vaccine nationalism, apartheid and imperialism, and the associated

greed that places profit before people. The prevailing political economy of the COVID-19 vaccines is making things difficult for humanity to overcome the pandemic.

The United States and Western European countries, for instance, have snapped up the patented COVID-19 vaccines, more than they need for their populations. Vaccine nationalism deprives millions of people in developing countries of vaccination. Compounding the situation, the pricing model for the vaccines is unfair.

The imperialist countries snapped up the vaccines at a favourable price than their big pharmaceutical corporations demand from poor countries. As if that were not enough, the developing countries find themselves faced with COVID-19 vaccine access conditionalities demanded by the Western-based big pharmaceutical multinational corporations. The conditionalities have the effect of undermining democratic national sovereignty. They are imperialist in content. In addition, they comprise elements that seek to exempt the big pharmaceutical corporations from taking responsibility for the vaccines.

More, the imperialist nexus is opposed to the waiver of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) on the

patented COVID-19 vaccines. This stands in the way of developing countries that have productive capacity or can develop that capacity to produce the vaccines in support of the decisive vaccination that the whole world needs. One reason that is given for the opposition to the TRIPS waiver on COVID-19 vaccines, is that even it is granted the raw materials will not be readily available. It is as if the raw materials must not be made accessible.

The idea implicit in vaccine nationalism and imperialism, that life matters only in the imperialist countries, and that profiting from the pandemic crisis is more important than saving human life, is completely unacceptable. For the world to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, people in every country must have access to the vaccines as public goods, and therefore to vaccination.

On behalf of the SACP, I want to take this opportunity to appeal to all South Africans to unite against vaccine nationalism and imperialism. Similarly, let us support the efforts led by our government, working together with other governments of developing countries, to achieve the COVID-19 vaccines TRIPS waiver.

In addition, the raw materials used in the manufacturing of the vaccines should be made accessible. Both the COVID-19 vaccines TRIPS waiver and access to the COVID-19 vaccines raw materials are crucial for the massification of the vaccines and vaccination for all to protect life, regardless of nationality, race, and gender. We also need to unite to end the unfair COVID-19 vaccine pricing model that favour imperialist countries and places profit before people. The efficacy and safety of all COVID-19 vaccines against the COVID-19 variants dominant in South Africa is as important as their inclusion in our national vaccination programme. Therefore, our national COVID-19 vaccination strategy must include engagements with Russia and China within the BRICS co-operation on solidarity- and development-based access to the vaccines the two BRICS countries have produced. In the Global South, Cuba has also been making advances in producing COVID-19 vaccine

Worker Issues

candidates. Engagements and scientific co-operation with Cuba are also as crucial as scientific co-operation with China and Russia. Besides the sourcing of the vaccines elsewhere on a fair basis, it is also important to advance vaccine research and development in South Africa as part of our wider strategy in view of our COVID-19 national and international experiences. This is also an important component of productive capacity building to fight any future viruses and pandemics.

The economic crisis and the crisis of social reproduction

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the pre-existing economic crisis has accentuated. From the perspective of the working class, the worst affected, the economic crisis is indicated by high levels of unemployment, poverty, and inequality, besides stagnation and frequent recessions.

To overcome the crisis of the capitalist system, South Africa needs a change in policy direction. This is the task facing the SACP and the working class as we march into the second centenary of the Party. To succeed, we need to build and deepen the unity of the working class, and other progressive forces.

The capitalist system is anchored in inequality. That is its hallmark. Capitalism is the structural driver of unemployment, poverty, and inequality, which it moves like waves on a global basis. Where unemployment, poverty and inequality are low and where they are high is determined not merely by technical capacity but primarily by the power relations between the oppressors and the oppressed, between the imperialist countries and those that they dominate, between the exploiters and the exploited. Unemployment, poverty, and inequality always affect the oppressed, those dominated by imperialist forces, and the exploited and marginalised.

This has race and gender dynamics. It is particularly black people and women who are the worst affected. In South Africa, this is the result of colonisation, apartheid, and their persisting legacy. Associated with the economic crisis, the crisis of social reproduction that is indicated by many households struggling to support life has also accentuated. Also not unrelated, the scourges of interpersonal violence, gender-based violence, drug and substance abuse, and criminality are also devastating many households and communities. We must continue tackling these scourges while tackling the COVID-19 pandemic to protect human life.

Defend our democracy

We must protect the supremacy of our constitution and the rule of law. Our constitution is a product of our liberation struggle, during which we lost many lives as a result of violence by the colonisers, the apartheid forces, and their surrogates. We value each life equally that we lost, before and even after 1994, and both in and outside our country.

We lost, among others, the life of our own General Secretary, comrade Chris Hani. His assassins aimed at perpetuating apartheid. With the sterling leadership of our movement, the masses rejected the invitation to a civil war, more blood shedding. The date for the first democratic general election we held in 1994 was set, and we achieved the transition from apartheid to our current democratic dispensation, with our constitution being the supreme law of the republic.

Our constitution is not something we can allow any person or grouping to gamble with or undermine. Defending the supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law is therefore a national imperative.

We strongly condemn the groupings and individuals who are inciting violence to undermine our constitution. As things stand, we have not recovered in every respect from the consequences of apartheid violence, including the violence the apartheid regime sponsored through its surrogates. Many families encountered permanent loss of life. That is, the life of their loved ones that they lost is irreplaceable. The majority of the loss was experienced by black families. Never again must any person be allowed to return us to the dark past we experienced.

The leaders, former leaders, and members of any formation in our broader movement in whose name reckless elements are inciting violence, must distance themselves from such treachery, counterrevolutionary conduct. We call upon all leaders not to allow their names to be used in calls for violence. In the same vein, we strongly condemn the abuse of the name of our joint ANC and SACP liberation army, uMkhonto weSizwe (MK), which we dissolved in favour of our transition to democracy, establishment of, and integration into the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). Real MK veterans know that life is invaluable and irreplaceable. They will not go around carelessly inciting violence and mobilising to undermine the very hard-won democratic transition that

the MK fought for.

Let the name of the MK not be allowed to be used to pursue what essentially is a counter revolutionary agenda. We say this because we know what war is!

Masingadlali ngempi, ngoba impi iyabulala. Masisebenze ngokuzinikela ekuthuthukiseni izwe lakithi ngokuthi silwe nesitha sangempela, indlala nokwesweleka kwemisebenzi. Masiqinise imizabalazo yethu yokulwa nokuhlukunyezwa kwabantu besifazane. Masibe ngamalunga emibutho yethu ngokweqiniso, siyivikele, singabi a Malungu amanye amalungu embuthweni!

Laba abathi makuliwe, bathi makuliwe nobani, ukuze kube njani? Kufanele sizibuze ukuthi labo abathi makuliwe bathunywe ngubani?

The gun shots spread by the elements inciting violence must be condemned in the strongest terms and be investigated thoroughly. Those responsible must be brought to book. No stone must be left unturned, in defending our democracy.

Corruption is another key challenge threatening our democracy. We wish to reiterate our support for the commission of inquiry into state capture and corruption. The commission must conclude its work. The law enforcement organs of state, including the prosecution, must follow up on the report of the commission once released. Those who were responsible or complicit in the corruption investigated by the commission must be held to account. We therefore expect consequence management, including through prosecution and asset forfeiture.

We wish to reiterate our support for the principle that no person is above the law. Let us all close ranks to defend our gains and our democracy! Dear comrades and friends, we have our own legacy in pushing the struggle for liberation to take cue from.

The historic role of the Communist Party

The Communist Party played a major role in our national liberation struggle since its founding in 1921. It was the Communist Party that forged our liberation Alliance with the ANC and the progressive trade union movement. The Alliance reconfigured to keep pace with the times and played a major role in the forefront of our liberation struggle.

It was the Alliance, then called the Congress Alliance, that co-ordinated the Congress of the People in 1955 and the drafting of the Freedom Charter. The Communist Party, then as an underground organisation but with its

leaders and members active in other Congress Alliance formations, made a major contribution to that process, to the formation of the MK, in its operations, and throughout the course of our liberation struggle.

Since this is a launching statement of our centenary celebrations, we will expand, albeit briefly, in our SACP Centenary Statement to be delivered on 1 August 2021. One thing is certain. We are not prepared to allow any person or grouping to take us back. What we want is to advance, deepen and defend the national democratic revolution and intensify the basis for an advance to socialism in our historical conditions.

We call upon the workers and the poor of our country and many other revolutionaries to celebrate the heroic role of communists in the liberation of our country and in the struggles for its reconstruction and development. Let us celebrate this centenary by doing what is necessary and what we can do best, to defend the gains we have made thus far and drive a second, more radical phase of our national democratic revolution!

International solidarity

The SACP stands in solidarity with the people of Swaziland struggling for democracy, human rights, and inclusive development under a people's government. The violence unleashed by the absolute monarch through the military and other organs of the security apparatus against the people is outrageous. The SACP conveys its deepest condolences to the families of the protesters who were killed by the autocracy and sends wishes of speedy recovery to those who were injured. The current protests began in May with the demand for an end to police violence. Mswati's government responded to peaceful protesters with brute force, resulting in unprecedented number of killings by the Swaziland police and the military.

We reiterate our solidarity with the people of Western Sahara and Palestine and reiterates its call for Morocco and Israel to end their occupation of Western Sahara and Palestinian land, respectively. In the same vein, the SACP call on the United States to end its illegal blockage against Cuba and evacuate the Cuban territory of Guantanamo Bay. We pledge our solidarity with the people and government of Cuba against the United States imperialist aggression.

Long live the SACP, long live!

PUBLIC VIOLENCE

DESTROYS PEOPLE'S

livelihoods and JOBS!

by Jack Mazibuko, SATAWU General Secretary



Umlazi SAPS members visited Glebelands hostel Block 51 to search for looted items

SATAWU Perspective on Protest Action in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng Respectively

The South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU) has critically observed the country's current state of affairs from a vantage point of concern, intrigue and curiosity.

Without applying a narrow blanket approach to condemn the choreography of collective and countervailing action in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, we can unearth a range of factors that have shaped and influenced the wave of violent protest action located in the mentioned provinces.'

'The unrests can be summarised firstly, as an inter-bourgeois (capitalist) struggle confronting the country's ruling elite; secondly, as a genuine re-enactment of politics of discontent by the historically downtrodden and lastly, a nonlinear coexistence of organised and unorganised criminal elements carried out by both sections of the dominant and marginalised class respectively.'

In a statement published late last year (2020), the union warned against the mainstream journalistic approach of reducing acts of violence in the road freight industry to xenophobia and criminality.

This reporting methodology not only dilutes but generalises an array of events manifesting at varied time intervals. Relying on both mainstream and credible social media reports, the union feels exonerated for its suspicion and position on the burning and hijacking

of trucks in the aforementioned sector for the following reasons:

1. The protest action in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng are both organised and unorganised
2. The arrest and subsequent revolt against the imprisonment of former President Jacob Zuma represents a broader crisis and unforgettable turning points in the Tripartite Alliance dating as far back as the 2007 ANC (African National Congress) Polokwane Conference
3. The acts of economic sabotage on transport corridors and destruction of infrastructure are sophisticated, well planned, well-orchestrated and well organised criminal attacks on the country's dominant mode of production.
4. Furthermore, these attacks will create high levels of unemployment in the Security, Cleaning, Road Freight sector, Rail sector, Bus Passenger sector and various value chains of the economy. The union calls on the Department of Employment and Labour (DoEL), Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) and Department of Transport (DoT) for an urgent Indaba to address the current and future potential labour crisis in the said strategic sectors of the country.
5. The looting of malls and local businesses for food and household items is not a new phenomenon in democratic South Africa's politics of discontent. These acts are primarily unorganised and

spontaneous in character. Put differently, a majority of South African's suffer from physiological, safety and social insecurities caused by a normalised system of structural inequalities. These protests can undeniably be linked to poverty, unemployment and the desperation of the masses

6. The politics of discontent are in reality a protest against the failures of capitalism linked to general exploitation, closure of businesses, simplification of the commodity labour-power, replacement of formal for precarious forms of employment and the pulling back of the provision of social services.

When placing the highlighted issues together one gets a melting pot of political crisis, social despair and desperation. Under such conditions of social and economic degradation, it becomes increasingly difficult to condemn the actions of the poor. Though their actions are labelled as criminal, poverty and hunger are also crimes against humanity. As reactionary as this may sound, in the absence of a well-defined socialist agenda, the union commends the collaboration between community leaders, members and police in defusing the crisis at hand.

With the looting out of the picture but not the politics of discontent, we will be in a better position to focus our attention on the real elephant in the room. It is an open secret that the mammal in question has its roots entrenched in the inter-political tensions within the ANC and its constellation of power relations.

On the other end, the symptoms of political and social crisis cannot be separated from the mammoth in the room being the capitalist mode of production, its inherent contradictions and crisis.

Apart from the insecurities affecting the broader working-class stratum, it cannot be denied that both domestic and global economies were and are still rattled by successive forms of crisis. The current Coronavirus pandemic has generally strained the conditions of capitalism.

The owners of production are crying over the uninterrupted loss of profits whilst their political institutions are not launching at both internal and external forms crisis that threatens their existence.

The immediate task before us is to untangle the character of capitalism in its contemporary setting. This critique needs to be extended to the weaknesses of left/working-class organisations and mobilisation.

The diagnosis should determine the path and process for social and economic change. Lastly, the objective prognosis must unite and address the challenges confronting workers in general and the labour movement in particular.

Material reality continues to demonstrate that the spontaneous actions of the downtrodden are a cry for an urgent reorganisation of the left/working-class movement so to advance a clear struggle that will aid a social and economic agenda with lasting solutions.



Sanlam Developing Markets is a Licensed Life Insurer and an Authorised Financial Services Provider.

In life there are many goodbyes. Some small, some big.

That's why we pay most funeral claims in 4 hours.

When the time comes for the final farewell, a Sanlam Funeral Plan will help you feel confident that you've made the right choice for you and your family.

Terms and conditions apply.

Excludes Sanlam Employee Benefits Funeral Insurance.



Live with confidence

[Financial Planning](#)

| [Investments](#)

| [Insurance](#)

| [Retirement](#)

| [Wealth](#)

HOW TO be cautious at the workplace under the Covid-19 PANDEMIC



Workers participating in vaccination program at the workplaces

The outbreak of the novel Coronavirus across the globe have changed the establishment of almost all workplace in particular and the labour legislation governing issues related to occupational health and safety in general. The adverse effects of Covid-19 at the world of work have forced labour markets social partners to craft labour legislation to respond to the panic which spread at the shop floor level.

Amongst the other effects registered since the outbreak, there has been recording of disproportionate job and income losses suffered by women workers during the pandemic as majority of these workers sell their labour power in care industry, hospitality, retail, tourism, transport and entertainment sectors.

Workers have been cushioned from loss of income through the temporary R350 grant, monies paid through the Unemployment Insurance Fund Temporary Employee/Employer Relief Scheme [TERS] Grant but it was not enough to save millions from destitution, hunger and loss of livelihoods.

One such legislation was the

Occupational Health and Safety Amendments Bill in which members of the public are requested to make submissions.

<http://www.labour.gov.za/DocumentCenter/Bills/Proposed%20Amendment%20Bills/OHS%20Amendment%20Bill%20for%20public%20comments.pdf>

Government has issued a directive on compensation for workplace acquired novel Coronavirus, in the form of Notice 387 of 2020 which was to work to support the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, 1993 (Act No. 130 of 1993). The Act compels employers to follow stipulated prescripts when submitting claims and supporting medical reports for Covid19.

The Act compels all employers to submit reports on online through the CompEasy system or mutual association claims systems, and all medical services providers must use the emergency Covid19 ICD-10 code: U07.1 as proposed by the World Health Organisation.

The Directive specifically deals with workplace acquired Covid19 resulting from work related exposures, exposure to suspected or confirmed case(s) of Covid19 in the workplace or while travelling on an official trip to high risk countries or areas on work assignment or while performing any duty in pursuance of the employer's business.

Any person contracting Covid19 at the workplace, carrying out his or her duties will be covered in terms of COIDA Act.

In terms of section 45 of the COIDA Act, the Compensation Fund is obliged to consider all claims submitted for compensation and adjudicate all claims to determine liability.

In carrying out this task, the Fund peruses all information submitted to make an objective decision. In addition

to exposure and clinical history, the Fund also considers the inherent risk posed by various categories of work and occupations.

Employees are therefore categorized as follows;

Firstly, Very high exposure risk occupations, include all workers working in the healthcare sector such as doctors, nurses, dentists, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, who are performing aerosol generating procedures such as intubation, cough induction procedures, bronchoscopies, some dental procedures or exams, or invasive specimen on known or suspected Covid19 patients.

Other workers covered as very high risk are laboratory employees collecting or handling specimen from known or suspected Covid19 patients, all healthcare employees conducting cardio-respiratory function testing such as spirometry, exercise electrocardiogram or respiratory physiotherapy.

Morgue employees performing autopsies which generally involve aerosol-generating procedures on the bodies of people who are known to have, or suspected of having Covid19 at the time of their death.

The second category is of employees involved in high exposure risk occupations such as all workers including healthcare delivery and support employees such as doctors, nurses, other hospital staff who must enter patients rooms of known or suspected Covid19 patients.

Such employees include medical transport workers such as ambulance personnel and porters moving known or suspected Covid19 patients in enclosed vehicles and lastly mortuary employees involved in preparing bodies of people who are known to have or suspected of having Covid19 at the time of their death, for burial or cremation.

The third category is medium exposure

risk occupations such as employees who are required to come into contact with people who may be infected with SARS-CoV-2 but who are not known or suspected Covid19 patients, even if it is within a 1.5 metres.

In areas without ongoing community transmission, employees in this risk group may have frequent contact with travelers who may return from international locations with widespread Covid-19 transmission.

In areas where there is ongoing community transmission, employees in this category may have contact with the general public such in schools, high population density work environments such as labour centres, consulting rooms, point of entry personnel and some high-volume retail settings.

The fourth category is the low exposure risk occupations such as workers who do not require contact with people known to be or suspected of being infected with Covid19, nor frequent close contact, even if it is within 1.5 metres.

The medical officers in the Compensation Fund will determine whether the diagnosis of Covid19 was made according to acceptable medical standards.

All employees, regardless of occupation, are entitled to make a claim for compensation in the event that they contract Covid19 at the workplace.

The Compensation Fund will also do assessment of permanent impairment within three months after diagnosis and when the maximum medical improvement has been reached. The degree of impairment will be evaluated on the medical complications of the Covid-19 from the affected body systems. Where there are medical complications, additional tests required to assess the presence of abnormalities present in the cardio-respiratory system and other organ systems affected

by Covid19, must be provided. All employees may be expected to benefit from temporary total disablement payments due to infection with Covid19 and such payments shall continue as long as such disablement continues, but not for a period exceeding 30 days. In an instance where there are medical complications, the Commissioner has a right to review each case on merit. The Compensation Fund does not provide compensation for unconfirmed cases which are still being investigated.

For self isolation or self quarantine, the employer must follow the directive published by the Minister of Employment and Labour regarding the Covid19 Temporary Employee/Employer Relief Scheme (TERS), as amended, or the consolidated Covid19 Directive on Health and Safety in the workplace, whichever is applicable.

For confirmed cases and where the Compensation Fund has accepted liability, temporary total disablement due to infection with Covid19 shall be paid from the date of diagnosis up to 30 days.

In an instance where there are medical complications, the Commissioner has a right to review each case on merit.

In an instance where there are medical complications, the Commissioner has a right to assess each case on merit and determine if there is any permanent disablement due to infection with Covid-19. In all accepted cases of Covid-19, medical aid shall be provided for a period of not more than 30 days from the date of diagnosis. If in the opinion of the Director-General further medical aid will reduce the extent of the disablement, this shall be considered. Reasonable burial expenses, widow/ widower's and dependent's pensions shall be payable, where applicable, if an employee dies as a result of the complications of Covid19.

All cases reported shall be accompanied by documents to be submitted to the Compensation Fund Commissioner or the employer such as employer's report of an occupational disease (W.CL.1), notice of an occupational disease and claim for compensation (W.CL.14), exposure and medical questionnaire, first medical report in respect of an occupational disease (W.CL.22) indicating U07.1 as the ICD-10 code for Covid19, exposure history (W.CL.110) and/or any other appropriate employment history which may include any information that may be helpful to the Compensation Commissioner, a medical report on the Employee's symptoms that details the history, establishes a diagnosis

of Covid-19 and laboratory results and chest radiographs where appropriate or any other information relevant to the claim, for each consultation, a progress medical report (W.CL.26), final medical report in respect of an occupational disease (W.CL.26) when the Employee's condition has reached maximum medical improvement and lastly an affidavit by the employee if the Employer cannot be traced or will not timeously supply a (W.CL.1), where applicable.

Every time, online claims for Covid19 must be made through the ICD-10 code-U07.1, or by email to the Compensation Fund, Rand Mutual Assurance, Federated Employers Mutual or to Provincial Compensation Fund addresses.

After receiving the claims, the office of the Compensation Commissioner shall consider and adjudicate upon the liability of all claims, and the medical officers in the Compensation Fund office are responsible for the medical assessment of the claim and for the confirmation of the acceptance or rejection of the claim.

Safe Workplaces are necessary!

Workers through their trade unions have advised to establish Covid-19 Compliance Officers to monitor the spread of the pandemic at the shop floor level. Every Employer shall provide and maintain, as far as it reasonably practicable, a working environment that is safe and without risk to the health of his or her employees. The Employer shall conduct workplace specific risk assessment and thereafter developing and implementing a risk management plan in writing, in respect of every risk identified.

The Employer shall ensure that the workplace specific risk assessment is conducted, by a person or persons who are competent to pronounce on all the risks associated with that workplace. The Employer shall ensure that the workplace specific risk management plan is in place and available at the workplace when requested by an inspector.

The Employer shall ensure that no work is undertaken unless the control measures contained in the risk management plan are complied with.

The Employer shall provide such information, instructions, training and supervision as may be necessary to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of his/her employees.

The Employer shall ensure as far as is reasonably practicable, not permitting, that no employee is permitted to do any work or to produce, process, use,

handle, store, or transport any article or substance or to operate any plant or machinery, unless the precautionary measures contemplated in paragraphs (b) and (d), or any other precautionary measures which may be prescribed, have been taken. The employer shall ensure that work is performed and that plant or machinery is used under the general supervision of a person trained to understand the hazards associated with it and who have the authority to ensure that precautionary measures taken by the Employer are implemented.

And lastly, causing all employees to be informed regarding the scope of their authority, as contemplated in section 37(1) (b) and ensuring that communication of the relevant components of the risk management plan is made to every employee. Every employer shall conduct his/her undertaking in such a manner as to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable that persons other than those in his/her employment who may be directly affected by his/her activities are not thereby exposed to hazards to their health or safety.

At every workplace, the general duties of employees, shall be at work to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and of other person who may be affected by his/her acts or omissions, ensuring that the employer or any other person as required by this Act, to cooperate with employees or any other person to enable that duty or requirement to be performed or complied with, are executed, that lawful order shall be given to any person to obey the health and safety rules and procedures laid down by the employer and any other person authorised thereto, in the interest of health and safety.

If any situation which is unsafe or unhealthy comes to the attention of employees, as soon as practicable, reporting such a situation must made to the employer or to the health and safety representative, for his/her workplace or section thereof, as the case may be, who shall report it to the employer.

Curbing gender inequalities as a result of Covid-19 effects!

Meanwhile, In Africa, men's employment experienced the smallest decline across all geographic regions, with just a 0.1 per cent drop between 2019 and 2020, while women's employment decreased by 1.9 per cent. During the pandemic, women fared considerably better in countries that took measures to prevent them from losing their jobs and allowed them to re-enter employment as early as possible.

The ILO brief, Building Forward Fairer: Women's rights to work and at work at the core of the COVID-19 recovery, shows that women have suffered disproportionate job and income losses because of their over-representation in the hardest-hit sectors, such as accommodation and food services, and the manufacturing sector.

Globally, between 2019 and 2020, women's employment declined by 4.2 per cent, representing a drop of 54 million jobs, while men's employment declined by 3 per cent, or 60 million jobs. Not all regions have been affected in the same way. The ILO report briefly emphasized that "building forward fairer" means placing gender equality at the core of the recovery effort and putting in place gender-responsive strategies.

These include:

- Investing in the care economy because the health, social work and education sectors are important generators of jobs, especially for women, and because care leave policies and flexible working arrangements can encourage a more even division of work at home between women and men.
- Working towards universal access to comprehensive, adequate and sustainable social protection for all to reduce the current gender gap in social protection coverage.
- Promoting equal pay for work of equal value.
- Eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work. Domestic violence and work-related gender-based violence and harassment worsened during the pandemic, further undermining women's ability to engage in paid employment.
- Promoting women's participation in decision-making bodies, social dialogue and social partner institutions.

The COVID-19 crisis has increased the importance of human and social capital for enterprise success. The competitiveness and viability — even survival — of an enterprise increasingly depend on its ability to make its employees motivated, skilled and committed.

This can only be achieved in a workplace environment characterized by a spirit of social dialogue, mutual trust and respect, non-discrimination, and the absence of violence and harassment.

Cuba economic blockade must end Now':

- COSATU affiliated trade unions come strong on solidarity with Cuba



COSATU affiliated Trade Unions on the picket line at the US Embassy in Pretoria

On the 23rd June 2021, a total of 184 countries voted in favour of a resolution to demand the end of the United States economic blockade on Cuba, for the 29th year in a row, with the US and Israel voting against. Only three countries, Colombia, Ukraine and Brazil abstained in the voting process at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Cuban authorities have argued over years that the 'economic war of extraterritorial scope against a small country affected millions of Cubans which led to estimated \$9.1 million in 2020. Cuban Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodriguez Parilla described the economic blockade as a 'massive, flagrant and unacceptable violation of the human rights of the people of Cuba'. COSATU affiliated Trade Unions have welcomed the outcome of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly vote on the American embargo against Cuba on the 23 June 2021.

The Cuban resolution titled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the

United States of America against Cuba", was voted in favour by an overwhelming 184 nations. Only the United States (US) and the apartheid state of Israel opposed it, whilst 3 countries abstained.

The United States remains shamefully impervious to international moral appeals even after the 29th consecutive UNGA vote overwhelmingly condemned its immoral blockade against Cuba. Many American citizens oppose the blockade as genocidal and struggle for its lifting. Even the Pope has condemned the immoral American blockade.

The blockade continues to impose many burdens on the people of Cuba.

At a time of the global COVID pandemic, the blockade places restrictions on access to essential medicines and is criminally harmful to Cuba's health system and on the economy.

The losses from decades of the blockade are estimated at \$1.3 trillion.

The United States obliges other countries not to trade with Cuba to buy external supplies it does not have, mostly for high priority medicines and health equipment. These include laboratory

materials, and equipment useful in producing COVID-19 vaccines. Cuba is forced to buy at more than 60% above the original prices.

The blockade also denies entry of humanitarian cargo into Cuba.

The Biden administration has neither eased the measures tightened by Donald Trump with 243 additional measures, nor taken steps to normalise relations with Cuba, including by abstaining from voting in favour of the blockade as President Obama administration did. This is a disgrace to Mandela's legacy, at whose memorial service, the first steps to normalise relations between the US and Cuba were taken when President Barack Obama and President Raul Castro met and exchanged a handshake.

Meanwhile, NEHAWU and NUM have supported the calls for calm in Cuba after eruption of ugly public protests. The calls to condemn destabilization plans against Cuba, which were 'alleged to be organized and incited from other countries'.

NUM President Joseph Montisetse said 'The NUM strongly denounces the disinformation and discredit campaign

articulated from Washington. Faced with these manoeuvres and the attempts to project an image of instability, breaking the citizen's tranquillity and State of Law and Social Justice, the Cuban people, lovers of peace and with a deep humanist vocation, will not renounce construction of an inclusive, democratic, prosperous and sustainable society with all and for the good of all.

The disorders and incidents that occurred in some localities of Cuba on Sunday, July 11, are the result of a plan designed by the United States government to, opportunistically exert the greatest possible pressure against our country, at a time when it faces a complex situation, derived from 16 months of facing the pandemic and the current peak, in addition to the severe strengthening of the United States blockade and the brutal restrictions that it imposes on the Cuban people.'

Montisetse alluded that 'This situation has seriously affected the normal functioning of the Cuban economy, by severely reducing income from exports of goods and services, access to fuel and medicines and medical supplies.

Democracy for Swaziland!

Many global citizens have witnessed outrageous scenes in Swaziland for weeks with unarmed protestors facing the barrel of a gun from armed eSwatini government soldiers and the police. This comes after the people led massive protests against the repressive regime under an iron fist and quasi authority since 1986.

The United Nations Human Rights released a statement in which it reiterated that 'the recent eruption of violence is deeply concerning, amid reports of killings and injuries during protests calling for democratic reforms. We urge the government of eSwatini to open dialogue to address the underlying public concerns.' The Swaziland Solidarity Network has described King Mswati 'as a lunatic who continues to insult the nation through lack of statesmanship and opulence at the expense of the poor citizens'.

Swaziland Solidarity Network (SSN) Spokesperson, Lucky Lukhele alluded to the fact that '...In widely boycotted national Imbizo at the Royal Cattle Byre, the king was his usual rude self, talking like an intoxicated man at a shebeen. In particular he labelled his deceased victims "mischievous marijuana smokers" who killed themselves'.

Lukhele said 'This is clearly an attempt by the king to provoke the nation to a reaction that he will put down using his army. We have been

informed that these killings are not just punitive measures, to Mswati they are also ritual murders. As he was making his vitriolic utterances, his paramilitary police were assaulting people in Manzini where there was a peaceful protest planned. The Swaziland Solidarity Network {SSN} wishes to urge all comrades in the country to exercise restraint. The world has heard and seen Mswati for the lunatic that he is. There are already a few tangible processes under way which will ultimately result in this arrogant tyrant being forced to swallow his words.'

Lukhele appealed to Swaziland youth by saying, 'Please stand firm and remember that freedom is never given on a silver platter.'

SSN argued that 'the absolute and anachronistic monarch is not only desperately out of touch with the ordinary citizens of the land, but certainly out of step with the democratic international community'.

On international solidarity!

The South African Democratic Teachers' Union [SADTU] National Executive Committee 'noted the pro-democracy protests in eSwatini and expressed solidarity with PUDEMO, Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT), the Communist Party of Swaziland and the people of eSwatini.

"We commend the people of eSwatini for advancing their own struggles. We hope this is in the interest of liberating the people of eSwatini"

'SADTU resolved to call on the South African government and SADC to intervene. The people of eSwatini deserve to live in peace where their will is expressed through a democratic process. The King and the monarchy must be above politics as an institution that unites the nation. The NEC was also concerned that the involvement of the King in the day to day running of the country would give the imperialist/capitalist forces that are targeting monarchies in Africa to undermine the stature of this traditional institution', said Mugwena Maluleke, SADTU General Secretary.

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union [NEHAWU] said 'We supports the struggle being waged by the People of Swaziland against the brutal and repressive Tinkhundla Regime for a democratic Swaziland.'

NEHAWU General Secretary, Zola Saphetha emphasized that 'The on-going mass actions by the people of Swaziland come as a direct result of the decades of oppression and repression by the Swazi Monarch. The people of Swaziland have experienced repression since the enactment of the 1973 decree banning all political parties, trade union movement and other progressive formations fighting for democracy.

The Monarch under Mswati, has over decades violated every basic tenet of human rights as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on

Human Rights. The people of Swaziland have been subjected to inhumane conditions of abject poverty, inequality and unemployment whilst Mswati and the Royal Family live a life of opulence in the midst of the Swazi People struggling for survival.' 'NEHAWU, has for years campaigned for the dismantling of the Mswati dictatorship, for a democratic Swaziland and the release of all political prisoners and remain consistent in support of these demands by the people of Swaziland.'

'We are in full support of the struggle being pursued by the progressive forces in Swaziland until the basic wishes of the people are realised. As such we call on all progressive forces in the world to support the people of Swaziland and bring to an end the dictatorship of the Mswati regime. SADC will shoulder the responsibility of any further bloodshed and should thus demand that the regime confines the criminal army to the barracks.

The security forces and police should defy unlawful and anti-people instructions from a government not paying civil servants. We also call on the imposition of targeted sanctions, especially in the acquisition of military equipment that will prop up Mswati's killing machine. We call on the South African government to act fastidious in protecting lives of ordinary people and desist from anything that extends the lifespan of the dictatorship.'

'COSATU salutes its members for showing overwhelming support for the struggle for democracy in Swaziland'

declares COSATU General Secretary

The Congress of South African Trade Union (COSATU) along with its Alliance partners in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, the Communist party of Swaziland led a massive blockading of three border posts at Golela, Matsamo and Oshoek on the 9th September 2021 to protest about absence of a democratic practice in eSwatini.

Addressing the spirited protestors at the Golela border post, the General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), Bheki Ntshalintshali said 'We salute all members and South Africans in general who overwhelmingly supported our campaign in support of the struggle for democracy in Swaziland.'

Ntshalintshali alluded that 'Today, the Federation organised blockades in various border posts ,going in and out, of Swaziland to show solidarity for the people of Swaziland and support their struggle for democracy. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, many workers came out in their numbers to show their overwhelming support. The Federation condemns the use of brutal force by the South African police against innocent protesters at Matsamo border post in Mpumalanga.'

He said 'We aware that the members of the SAPS deployed at Matsamo border post overzealously decided to shoot at innocent protesters. This unprovoked attack led to many of them sustaining injuries. We call on President Cyril Ramaphosa and his administration to choose sides because we cannot allow for the SAPS to be used to prop up an ailing and discredited Tinkhundla regime. We are very much aware of the attempt of the regime to try and stop our blockade through consultation with the South African Authorities.

This unacceptable conduct by the police makes us wonder if this attempt was entertained somewhere in South African government corridors. The Federation is unwavering in its support for the struggle for a free and democratic Swaziland. We find it totally unacceptable that more than 74 lives were lost, several hundreds injured and more than 700 were jailed for standing up for democracy, in a space of 3 months.'

Ntshalintshali emphasised that 'We are not going to allow the actions of overzealous and reactionary police officers to dampen our commitment to stand in solidarity with the people of Swaziland. We remain inspired by the efforts of fallen giants of the Swazi struggle, such as Mario

Masuku, Jan Sithole and others who died demanding democracy and people's power. Despite the shooting incidence, COSATU members regrouped and continued with their programme however, we regret that the same modus operandi used by police in Swaziland was the same used in Mpumalanga as when the leaders of the Federation were due to speak the police again attacked the blockade without provocation.'

'This is unacceptable and will be addressed in due course.'

'We reiterate our support for the calls demanding the unbanning of political parties, the release of all political prisoners, towards an inclusive political dialogue, and a transitional authority and a new democratic constitution for the country.'

Ntshalintshali concluded that 'We demand the release of all political prisoners, including our dear stalwart and brave soldier Amos Mbedzi, who is a prisoner of conscience and has become very ill, Mbedzi has been subjected to inhumane and cruel torture, denied medical care and other rights as a human being. Once again, we call on King Mswati III to stop being in denial but to recognize the urgency for earnest and robust dialogue between himself and the people of Swaziland that will drive

the process of change.

The reality is that change is coming in Swaziland, and it is up to him to decide whether he will be part of it or not. The federation will continue to work together with its sister federations in the region and beyond to show solidarity and mobilise for the struggle for a free and democratic Swaziland.'

'We also call on SADC to acknowledge that the winds of change are here, and they cannot remain silent or passive on the Swaziland question. As President Cyril Ramaphosa receives the Troika report and the incoming chair, we appeal to his conscience to acknowledge that the process of investigation was flawed and not inclusive as it only had access to the official structures of the Swaziland government and no other stakeholders.

Therefore, it is incumbent on him to do the right thing and not priorities business over human lives and human rights.'

Meanwhile, the protestors were addressed by the leadership of PUDEMO, Swaziland Communist Party, the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party in both KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga.

'Workers of the World Unite'

Workers of the world unite
What a system, what a crime
We can't mend it, we must end it
End it now for all times

Rise and Share
I am a worker and demoralised
I do things not because I like to
I do things because I have to
I am separated from the soil and the tools
Chased away from the land, Law and Labour

I am Universal Soldier, Combatant for Universal Mission
United we stand
Workers let me talk to your being
Workers let me penetrate the essence of your being
Workers let me provoke your social being

Divided you fall
You have nothing to lose except the chains of oppression and exploitation
Mountains of truth, mountains of realities
Oh milestone of Marx, Engels and Lenin

Rise and Share
No more dancing around the truth
No more throws of blames around
Why camouflaging of laws?
Why the shadowing boxing?
Solidarity forever

by Thobile Maso

COSATU affiliates engage in vaccination at various sites



COSATU members participating in national vaccine roll-out plan by government

On the night of the 11th July 2021, the President of the Republic of South Africa raised concerns about the 'health system being under pressure,

with daily hospital admissions reaching levels which indicates that we are facing the third wave.'

President Ramaphosa urged all citizens to participate in the vaccine roll-out programme unleashed by the National Department of Health.

Richard Mamabolo, POPCRU National Spokesperson came out to support all the members participating in the roll-out in police stations, correctional centres and other institutions within the security cluster.

Mamabolo said 'The Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (POPCRU) encourage members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) to go out in their numbers and vaccinate. SAPS members will be the next group

of frontline workers to get the Covid-19 jab as the vaccination drive kicked off from the 5th of July 2021, with over 180 000 members of the service expected to be vaccinated. 108 vaccination centres have been registered across the country for this all-important purpose, and we believe this will be adequate to ensure a smooth process.

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on SAPS members is well documented, sadly with over 30 000 infections and over 680 fatalities reported to date. Despite these disturbing figures, our men and women in blue continue to man roadblocks, work in unfamiliar and uncontrolled environments and ensure lockdown regulations are adhered to. We are delighted that the vaccination process is to be finally realised, and

that the national roll-out process has commenced'. Meanwhile, the National Department of Health emphasized that 'the Delta variant was more transmissible than previous variants and that it required vigilance because many of the people infected did not show any symptoms.'

The Department alluded to the fact that 'over 3 million [as of June 2021] people were vaccinated which included health workers, persons aged 60 and older, educators. And that members of the South African National Defence Force and SAPS were coming on the line.' COSATU has joined all trade unions to encourage all workers and their families to participate in the national vaccine program! 'All are equal before the law', declares SAMWU.



SACTWU members recently demanding ratification of ILO Convention 190

'We managed to secure a wage increase for our members under very difficult COVID-19 pandemic conditions', declares SACTWU

The Southern African Clothing & Textile Workers' Union (SACTWU) has settled a 4.77% wage increase for metro areas, and 6.66% for non-metro areas in the Blanket Textile sector.

André Kriel, SACTWU General Secretary, said 'The COSATU-affiliated union has settled its 2021 wage negotiations for the Blanket Textile sector in South Africa. The settlement provides for a 4.77% wage increase for metro areas, and

6.66% for non-metro areas. The weighted average increase for both areas is 5.2%. These wage increases will become effective from 1 August this year.'

SACTWU said 'This wage agreement was reached with the South African Blankets Manufacturing Employers' Organisation (SABMEO) and signed on 9 June 2021.

The negotiations were conducted on hybrid virtual platform, under

the auspices of the National Textile Bargaining Council (NTBC). The wage increases will cover the 12-month period from 1 August 2021, to 31 July 2022.'

Kriel emphasized that 'Fresh negotiations will be held early in 2022, to determine what new wage increases will be due with effect from 1 August next year. While we are mindful that future inflationary movements are currently volatile,'

SACTWU is pleased that it has managed to secure a wage increase for our members which at this stage is higher than inflation and under very difficult COVID-19 pandemic conditions.

Meanwhile, the parties have agreed to a provision which 'commits all employers in this sector to assist with the successful and efficient roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.'

‘THERE IS LACK OF TRANSPARENCY in the manner in which **South African Airways (SAA)** was recently privatised’, declares **SATAWU**

The South African Transport and Allied Workers’ Union (SATAWU) has come out gun blazing after the South Africa Airways was privatized by government, with a consortium taking 51% shareholding.

The union reiterated that ‘following the numerous calls to either liquidate or privatise the airline, labour succeeded in averting the former, however, our efforts were unable to prevent the latter material condition.’

SATAWU General Secretary, Jack Mazibuko, said ‘The privatisation of SAA was not an accident because plans to achieve this outcome were effected after the appointment of Business Rescue Practitioners (BRPs). The union always maintained that saving the airline demanded uprooting all historical wrongs that undermined the philosophy of state-owned enterprises (SOEs). Labour initially expressed optimism to save the airline after the formation of the Leadership Compact Forum (LCF).’

Mazibuko elaborated that ‘a forum was tasked to assist in reconfiguring the airline through the implementation of prescriptions informed by the critical diagnosis of historical conditions. Similarly, parties

resolved to establish a new airline that encompassed distinguished values and transformed operational, managerial and leadership ethos. Regrettably, the vision to steer the airline towards a transformed path was upset by the reproduction of historical adversities.

The collaboration between the DPE (Department of Public Enterprise) and the BRPs undermined efforts to overhaul the airline through collective efforts. The veiled “public-private partnership” was not only at the detriment of the LCF but aggravated the vulnerabilities of ordinary workers. These manifestations prompted both organised and unorganised labour to institute a wave of countervailing action against the DPE and BRPs.’

SATAWU said ‘the union is not intending to play the victim card by expressing discontent about the end (privatisation of SAA) and the means (the collaboration between the DPE and BRPs) that influenced the current phenomenon. Irrespective of criticism against trade unions located in the aviation sector, critical lessons must still be drawn from this manifestation without separating both fragmentation and the state of flux affecting the general labour movement.

When assessed from an external perspective, it may be easily concluded that the unions lost the battle to reconfigure the airline in their image. However, the privatisation in question is a reminder that the movement must “... through the march of research, of experiments and experiences, of discoveries, to recreate the sense, the form of a path, and to give this path the form of a process...”

Put differently, the capitalist mode of production must be analysed in its contemporary setting to translate present-day theoretical approaches into laws for action. Unlike proponents of market fundamentalism, the privatisation of the airline can be herald as a victory for the bourgeois state, its private equity partners and not the working-class.

It was envisaged that our call for an equity partner in a form of a state-workers led cooperative will transform existing antagonistic social and productive relations. What will be ironic and equally disappointing is to learn that privatisation of SAA was effected through resources from various retirement funds. Without entering the realm of conspiracy theory, this temporary defeat demystifies the

fact that the state in its current form will assist the crisis riddled mode of production to adapt to change and to intensify its campaign to reduce labour to its most simple form and acquired “...at the lowest possible production cost...”.

Mazibuko reiterated that ‘Our immediate objective is to prevent the further sale of state assets to the private sector. Lest we forget that the marketization and outsourcing of SAA functions led to its indirect privatisation through public-private partnerships. Regardless of our unfortunate predicament, we are obligated to ensure that all previously outsourced functions are executed by the airline.

Furthermore, by going back to the drawing board, the interests of workers will be advanced through the application of new forms of organising methods, agitation and campaigns. Certainly, this bleak historical moment has presented an opportunity to re-evaluate our strategies and tactics necessary for eradicating precarious forms of employment engineered by a neoliberal state together with its equity partners.’

Comrade Khaya Xaba

*Remembered
as an
Internationalist
Activist who
championed
for international
social justice*



Comrade Khaya Xaba

On the cold morning of the 19th June 2021, at Ermelo Civic Centre hall, mourners assembled to pay their last respects to a colossus of trade union's propaganda machinery, the late Khaya Xaba. Comrade Khaya succumbed to Covid-19 complications after being hospitalized.

***'Even though you are no more,
Your sacrifice lives on,
For your courage was way beyond
normal....'***

These words were widely shared within the South African trade union movement, mass democratic movement and beyond borders on all who paid tribute to the fallen NEHAWU National Spokesperson, Comrade Khaya!

The World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU] Trade Union International Public Services and Allied [TUI PS&A] said "Comrade Khaya an Internationalist and activist for international social justice was instrumental in the work of our TUI in communicating our messages around

the world in the fight against COVID 19 pandemic. TUI-PS&A worked with comrade Khaya in many of its programs including our international campaigns, such as: Campaigns in Solidarity with peoples of Palestine, Cuba and Venezuela as well as our campaign for FREE VACCINE FOR ALL".

"Comrade Khaya will be remembered by the working class around the world especially public service workers which our movement represent for his tireless dedication to social justice, internationalism and in the defense of workers' rights. TUI-PS&A will intensify our international campaigns for social justice in defense of workers' rights in all continents in honour of comrade Khaya Xaba.

***"A true revolutionary is guided by
a great feeling of love".***

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (NEHAWU) described its National Spokesperson, Comrade Khaya Xaba. Comrade as 'a dependable administrative official, whose professionalism was above a

superlative degree”.

“His passing is not only a loss to the national union but workers in general especially at this critical moment when workers are confronted with third wave of COVID-19. When members and workers were losing their lives due to the pandemic, it was Comrade Xaba through the union that was in the forefront in communicating and exposing the deteriorating conditions workers had to endure. Equally when the government had embarked on an agenda of weakening collective bargaining and reversing the gains and rights of workers, Cde Xaba spent his time articulating our positions and championed the interest of workers using his craft as a highly skilled and excellent communicator.

Comrade Xaba joined NEHAWU in 2016 as a media liaison officer coming from the ranks of the Young Communist League of South Africa (YCLSA) where his craft as an excellence and prolific communicator was moulded. Due to his dedication, commitment and hard-work, Comrade Xaba was subsequently promoted to the position of a National Spokesperson and continued to diligently serve the national union and workers in particular.

He dedicated his life in defending the interest of workers - for better conditions of service and spent his time in defending the gains of workers against a brutal system of exploitation. Apart from being a national spokesperson, Comrade Xaba was also an activist for social transformation who understood that society progress through a class-struggle and this was evident with him through his participating in the mass democratic movement in various capacities.”

“Cde. Xaba served in different structures of the Young Communist League (YCLSA) in Gauteng. Having served as a District Executive Committee Member of the Young Communist League of South African Communist Party (YCLSA) in the Oupa Phasha District in Gauteng and was also elected as a Provincial Executive Committee Member of YCLSA Gauteng Province.”

“Cde Xaba as an activist with an internationalist orientation was also highly active in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS) promoting boycotts, divestments, and economic sanctions against Israel for a Free Palestine.

In his honour, NEHAWU will intensify the struggle to end all forms of exploitation of workers by employers including defending collective bargaining which is currently under threat from our government.

Death has once again robbed us of one of our own. This further necessitates for all of us for his name to be more vigilant and to protect ourselves and our loved ones. In this regard, we continue to appeal to all our people to wear a mask, sanitise their hands and to observe social distancing.”

The South African Democratic Teachers’ Union (SADTU) joined other trade unions to express its sincere and heartfelt condolences to its sister union, the National Education, Health and Allied Workers’ Union (NEHAWU), family and friends on the passing of Cde Khaya Xaba.

SADTU said “The news of the passing on of Cde Xaba were met with deep shock and sadness.”

“Cde Xaba will be remembered as a dedicated and diligent cadre who contributed to the struggle for the working class through his work as the spokesperson. He fearlessly spoke out against the injustices meted out by employers on workers not only in the health sector but in the public service sector as a whole. He diligently ensured that members and the general public were kept abreast about developments within his union and the COSATU federation through his work as a communicator.

His passing is not a loss for NEHAWU but for all workers in general. Cde Xaba’s death has sadly come at a time when public service unions are fighting for the protection of collective bargaining following the employer’s failure to honour, in full, Collective Agreement 1 of 2018 which resulted in public service employees not receiving their increments in 2020. In his memory SADTU, together with

all public service unions under COSATU, commits to continue the fight to ensure that the gains of the working class, such as collective bargaining, are not reversed.”

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) conveyed its deepest and sincere condolences to NEHAWU National Spokesperson Khaya Xaba’s immediate and extended family, comrades, friends and colleagues during the difficult time.

NUM said “Xaba, a former national spokesperson of YCLSA was a highly regarded and accomplished professional and communicator who served the working class with distinction. This is a tragic loss to the trade union movement communications and to the nation as a whole.”

“We have been robbed of a dedicated servant of the working class who selflessly served the trade union movement. Comrade Xaba’s contribution to the working-class movement and the left unity will be remembered forever. With the passing of comrade Xaba an era has come to an end.”

The Young Communist League of South Africa alluded that “As a dedicated internationalist, Comrade Khaya contributed immensely to the fight against imperialist aggression and oppression across the world. He unequivocally advocated for the freedom of the people of Palestine against the oppressive Zionist Israeli regime and demonstrated his committed to this just struggle through his actions and profession.

In honour of his great contribution to the working-class struggle, uFasimba will intensify efforts and mobilize against the current anti-workers, anti-progress and reactionary neoliberal trajectory that is being advanced by a cartel within the sixth administration in collaboration with imperialist international finance institutions.

uFasimba is deeply saddened by his death and conveys its deep and heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and comrades in the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM).”

Paying his tribute on a virtual memorial service, the General Secretary of the Congress of

South African Trade Unions, Bheki Ntshalintshali said “The unexpected passing of Cde Khaya is a huge loss for the federation, the labour movement, and the entire mass democratic movement. He was not just a union official, but he was a virtuous and committed activist who was passionate about the struggles of the poor and the working class. Cde. Xaba’s began his activism work at a young age.

He invested his youthful energy in the structures of the Young Communist League (YCLSA), where he served in various positions. He was a diligent, easy-going, and a hardworking comrade with a sense of humour. He loved his job because he was passionate about the working-class struggles.

He was an indispensable part of the federation through his invaluable contribution to the COSATU Media Forum. He contributed immensely to building the federation and supporting all its campaigns. He dedicated his life to fighting exploitation inside and outside the workplace.

He was accessible and genuine and was never unnerved by trivial things. In the passing away of Cde Khaya, workers and the working class in general have lost a reliable member of the movement whose faith in its importance was never shaken.

We were looking forward to working with him to prepare for the upcoming Central Committee of the federation and his excellent communication skills were invaluable at a time when Public Sector workers and in other industries are facing attacks on collective bargaining, dealing with retrenchments and COVID-19.

We will forever remember him as one of us. A passionate and approachable colleague and comrade. The working class remains deeply indebted to Cde Khaya”. Rest in peace, the fight will go on and your name!

NEHAWU said “Lala Ngoxolo Nonkosi, Shwabada, ugqatso ulufezile”

"SACCAWU members still shocked by the passing of the workers' advocate"



SACCAWU members marching during the funeral procession of Cde Nkosi

HAMBA KAHLE COMRADE 'SNOWY' NKOSI

Members of SACCAWU in the PWV Region gathered at Johannesburg South to pay their last respects for the late comrade Frans Snowy Nkosi, who became a paid-up member after joining Pick n Pay Northgate in 1992 as a casual and rose up within the union structures.

He became a shopsteward in 1995. Comrade Snowy was elected a Regional Secretary of WITS Region and later a Chairperson. He has served as a Deputy Chairperson of SACCAWU Pick n Pay Council wherein he represented the membership.

Comrade Snowy joined the union as a former MK who was trained outside the borders of South Africa and transitioned to become a reliable

trade unionist, a shopsteward and a distinguished trade union leader. He was born in Soweto in 1973 and attended schooling at Phuti Lower Primary and later attended at NkaThuto Higher Primary. He matriculated at Forte Secondary School and thereafter registered at WITS University where he studied LLB Law.

Addressing the mourners, SACCAWU Deputy General Secretary, Mbongwe Mdu said 'the over 170 000 members of SACCAWU are shocked by his passing away and Comrade Snowy will be remembered as one of the relentless, gallant fighter and also a member of the Central Executive Committee of the union.'

"We gathered to celebrate the life and times of a freedom fighter, who understood the deeply connections

between political struggle and class struggles from Meadowlands Zone 5 in Soweto and fitted sharply in the well established worker-controlled organizations such as SACCAWU. Comrade Snowy was a well-grounded leader and possessed countless capabilities and skills."

"Comrade Snowy could be brave when the situation warranted such as a shrewd workplace negotiator, championing the struggle for a living wage in the retail sector.

As a chairperson in the region, he distinguished himself as a unifying leader in the struggle to eradicate poverty, inequality, unemployment, corruption, a motivator of the toiling class against all the atrocities impacting on their daily lives by bosses, an internationalist of note and a strategist to the end".

Comrade Snowy was a seasoned negotiator who did not take kindly the termination of Flex and Mob agreement signed and always called for promotion of social dialogue in the retail sector. Comrade Snowy has selflessly played all his roles assigned by the union with distinction, and at times with limited resources.

On behalf of SACCAWU we pay our last respect to the son of the soil and we may dedicate a book writing about his worthy life and times." He will be remembered by his wife, and the kids as a generous father, loving human being and a kind parent.

He was buried on the 2nd July 2021 at Nasrec cemeteries. Hamba Kahle Comrade Frans Snowy Nkosi!

Covid in Africa: A Case of Extreme Measures and Human Rights Abuses?

By Jedi Ramalapa

Just after the global outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic, over 100 leading African Academics and writers called on the continent's leaders to govern with compassion and see the crisis as a chance for a radical change of direction for the continent. In their open letter to all African leaders, they called on African governments to focus their attention once more on the prevailing chronic under-investment in public health, food self-sufficiency including the prioritisation of road and airport infrastructures at the expense of human well-being. A year later we are beginning to see glimpses of the extent of this crisis' destructive potential which in Africa has been a case of extreme measures in opposing directions.

As we speak the continent has recorded 200 million cases of Covid-19 infections and over 4 million people have died from the disease so far. South Africa continues to lead the continent with more than 2 million confirmed cases of Covid-19 on the continent while other countries such as the West African country of Sierra Leone is faring much better with close to 7 thousand infections recorded since the outbreak of the virus. The low infection rates in West Africa are largely attributable to previous experience with pandemic outbreaks such as the outbreak of the Ebola pandemic which killed over 11 thousand people in the region between 2014 and 2016.

Freetown based journalist and president of the Sierra Leonean Journalists Union, Lam Bah says Sierra Leone was well prepared for the Covid-19 outbreak. By March the country had already put social distancing measures including the wearing of masks and of washing hands across the country.

The President also controversially declared a 12-month state of emergency to reduce the infection rates. Despite warnings by prominent intellectuals and the United Nations, African countries have continued to impose brutal lockdown measures which have been highly punitive and disruptive to the lives of those whose survival depends on informal activities. Recent research from the University of Johannesburg, headed by Economics Professor Nicholas Ngepah suggests that strict lockdown measures could have been one of the major drivers of a rise in infections rates on the continent.

"It appears that stringent lockdowns increased desperation due to deprivations, which inevitably led to citizens not respecting the conditions. Without livelihood support for citizens, stringency would exacerbate the spread."

The brutal lockdown measures which caused massive hunger among the poor majority of South Africa's population added fuel to the recent outbreak of looting, lawlessness and violence in South Africa which left more than 336 people dead. South Africans have so far endured an estimated 500 days in various levels of lockdown. The high levels of poverty, inequality and unemployment have made the coronavirus crisis even harder to manage.

The East African country of Tanzania, like South Africa is another example of the extremes. Dar es Salaam based Journalist and media analyst Sammy Awami says the late President John Mugufuli's complete denial of the existence of the coronavirus has had a damaging impact on the country's ability to implement Covid-19 protocols and prevention measures.

"The damage that was done was

quite massive - because that came with people refusing to wear masks, with people refusing to observe any kinds of precautions against the Covid-19 virus. But it didn't just stop there, what it meant is that even scientists in this country whose primary goal was to inform and educate the community, to help guide the public towards a more scientific path, found themselves in a difficult situation because they could not exercise their role as practitioners in the health sector to really tell people that science knows differently from what the president is telling us."

Awami was speaking at a recent webinar focusing on the impact of Covid-19 on Human Rights in East and Southern Africa, hosted by a Canadian media development agency, Journalists for Human Rights (JHR). Along with major challenges of mis and disinformation permeating the continent on the Coronavirus, media freedoms and the right to access information have also come under significant fire in some parts of the continent. With some governments imposing stringent restrictions on what information can be shared under the guise of preventing the spread of "misinformation."

"You had media organisations, Kwanzaa TV, being shut down just because they quoted a statement from the US embassy saying the situation in Dar es Salaam was threatening. It wasn't even something that they produced themselves. It was basically a statement from the US embassy, a credible organisation, a credible institution posted it on their social media acknowledging where it came from but the government still shut them down for spreading misinformation," Awami explained.

More urgently the continent is in dire need of vaccines to

immunise more than 1 billion people. So far less than 1 percent of Africa's population has been fully vaccinated. Uganda based health and human rights journalist Esther Nakkazi says while there have been many human rights challenges associated within managing contamination, the story for Africa right now is access to vaccines.

"We in Africa do not have vaccines. We are relying on Western countries to provide us with vaccines. To me that's a health issue. We need to drum it up."

Among the myriad of chronic challenges, the coronavirus pandemic has brought to the fore, there are signs that the virus is already having a devastating impact on the economic development of the continent. The preferential treatment of vaccinated populations in the labour market over those who are unvaccinated, is an issue which will put the issue of biomedical ethics, positive discrimination and morality in the spotlight.

This trend is also contributing to increasing levels of antagonism and acrimonious feelings between vaccinated and unvaccinated populations which, instead of encouraging people to get vaccinated and observe covid-19 protocols, is achieving the opposite effect.

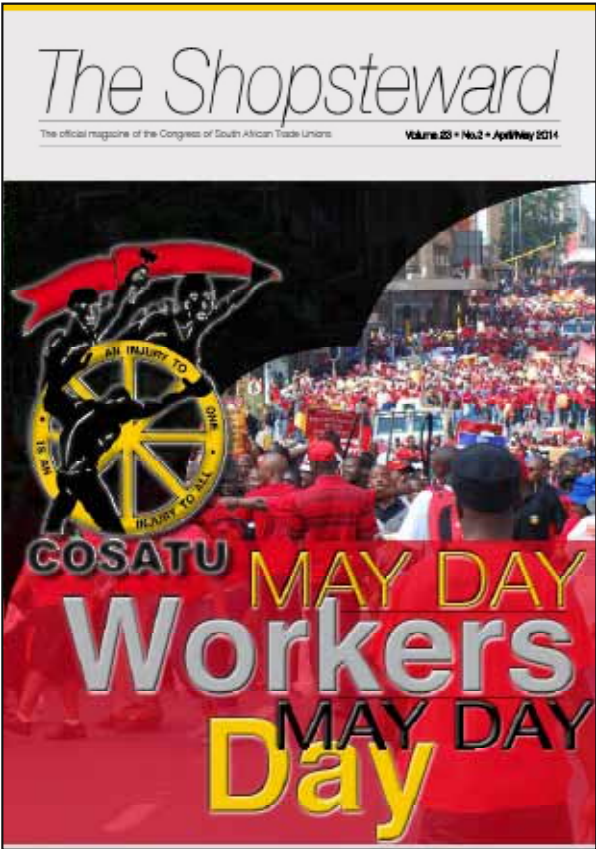
As more people grow increasingly suspicious of the current global vaccination drive, they are likely to dig in their heels and protest against potentially life-saving vaccines such as those we have witnessed recently in Europe.

A year on, the call by African intellectuals for "serious reflections on the functioning of African state institutions, corruption and juridical norms in the distribution and balancing of power," still stands, a radical change in direction for Africa is still needed and it's not in the extremes.

Subscribe to The Shopsteward

THE SHOPSTEWARD is a unique magazine. Most newspapers and magazine owned by millionaires and reflect the outlook of the rich and powerful. The Shopsteward is produced by COSATU and gives the workers a point of view on the big issues in the workplace, the community, politics and the world. Why not

make sure you get issues by
subscribing?



Shopsteward Subscription

COSATU's website offers an option to download the subscription form from there, you can print it out and resend it back to us. www.cosatu.org.za

Subscription rates

The cost of six issues is

South Africa		Foreign subscription	
Workers and students	R45	Airmail	
Salaried employees	R55	Southern Africa	R290
CBO's and NGO's	R80	Other countries	R310
Institutions	R80	Surface mail	
Companies	R90	All countries	R180



Subscriber contact details

Surname
Name
Designation
Company
Address
Country
Tel
Fax
Cell
Email

Payment options

☐ Cheque Enclosed, payable to COSATU

☐ Direct transfer:

Banking details:

Name of Account: COSATU CEC

Bank: First National Bank

Branch code: 255005

Account number: 62345348644

Account type: Current

Please put in reference: SSJ & Your name

Name of credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CVC (Last 3 digits on the reverse side)

--	--	--

Expiry date/.....

Signature Date

Please post, fax or email proof of payment to
COSATU House, 110 Jorissen Street, Braamfontein
P.O. Box 1019, Johannesburg, 2000 or
Fax to +27 (0) 11 339 5080/6940
OR Email nthabiseng@cosatu.org.za

For Subscriptions and Distribution please contact
nthabiseng@cosatu.org.za or Tel: +27 (0) 11 339 4911