



COSATU

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Bheki Ntshalintshali
Editor in Chief

Editorial note

We welcome our readers to another copy of the Shopsteward Magazine and receive our warm and revolutionary greetings to the Federation of Elijah Bhari and Chris Dlamini. From its very founding the Federation committed itself to organise and unite workers on the basis of democratic member control of the federation.

These founding principles still remain relevant and important as we prepare for the upcoming 14th National Congress next month. We go to this congress to not just grapple with current issues and map the future but to deepen and strengthen the principle of workers control.

The founders of COSATU also understood very early that, at the time when apartheid state repression was at its height, organising workers will be a difficult challenge, that it will require sacrifices and risks to their lives.

They understood that under apartheid oppression and super-exploitative conditions affecting the workers they seek to represent, a further commitment was required - to fight for a "united, democratic South Africa free from oppression and economic exploitation".

They understood the political and economic conditions in which their new federation will operate and the economic foundation upon which apartheid rule rested.

The federation was also founded on the principles of unity and solidarity of all workers, opening all eligible to membership without discrimination and within the scope of its public-sector organising. The federation's motto expressed these principles: "An injury to one is an injury to all". They understood that they cannot take forward these commitments and principles alone, they would need to co-ordinate, affiliate, and formulate relations with other workers in South Africa and around the world, to realise these ideals.

COSATU was one of the organisations with the concrete experience of connecting trade union struggles with community struggles that reflected the broad-front struggles under the banner of the United Democratic Front (UDF).

It is, therefore, no accident that COSATU has been one of the leading democratic contingents of militant and progressive trade unionism in South Africa, and part and parcel of the forces for national liberation and socialism in South Africa and the Alliance.

Over the last couple of weeks, the federation has been convening marches across all provinces to protest the rising cost of living and the budget cuts that have made the situation worse. We continue to experience loadshedding, fuel price hikes and the rising cost of food.

This has led to the Central Executive Committee meeting calling for a national Strike on the 24th of August to protest against the rising cost of living. We are doing this focusing on the economic interventions necessary to fix the problem.

The upcoming Medium Term Budget Policy statement to be delivered by the Minister of Finance Enoch Goniwe in the next two months has a lot riding on it. Workers hope it will be used to lay the foundation of an economy and the kind of a development state that we envision and need to get out of this economic quagmire.

The capacity of the state has been severely tested during the Covid-19 lockdown and the rising inflation, and the country's social inequalities have been laid bare. The South African government needs to learn lessons and use the budget and other available economic mechanisms to close these identified gaps and lay a foundation for a new inclusive economy.

South Africa is currently the most unequal country in the world with 46% unemployment rate. The latest jobs and economic projections paint a dire picture of the pending economic firestorm in the coming months, with more people facing unemployment and poverty. This

means that millions of workers will be dependent on the state for their well-being and that of their families.

For this to change, decisionmakers will have to first acknowledge that poverty is not accidental, but it flows from the logic of the capitalist system that has been propped up by government policies for over a quarter of a century.

One of the most fundamental features of our national situation has been the inability of our policymakers to find a solution to the systemic and deep existential crisis of the South African capitalist system.

This current economic crisis has persisted for more than a decade since the Global Financial Crisis of 2008. In our account of the deepening socioeconomic crises that is currently engulfing South Africa, we need to look at the misguided macroeconomic policy framework that has been implemented over the years, especially over the span of the recent fifth democratic dispensation.

The fourth democratic dispensation that was elected in the midst of the 2009 recession relatively succeeded in pulling the economy back to growth by adopting a "counter-cyclical" fiscal policy stance, on the back of NEDLAC Framework Response to the International Economic Crisis. However, that growth trajectory was short-lived as it decelerated year after year as the expansionary spending on infrastructure by the public sector (more than R2 trillion over 10 years) was paralleled by declining private sector investment.

The New Growth Path (NGP) which was introduced in 2010, proposing a new “macroeconomic package” seeking to strike a balance between a “looser monetary policy” and “more restrictive fiscal policy”, as well as proposing the creation of a state-owned bank was summarily replaced by the National Development Plan (NDP), when the latter was adopted in 2012. Thus, the NDP was used to restore and ensure continuity with the old Neoliberal macroeconomic policy paradigm.

Therefore, the rentier monopoly finance-capital that oversees the country’s monetary policy at a distance as well as the Neoliberal deep-state within government and SARB succeeded in displacing a paradigm shift proposed in the NDP, since the latter favoured the development of the real productive economy. Since then, flimsy arguments have been presented to defend the current narrow interpretation of the mandate of the SARB.

The Treasury’s last February budget was an austerity budget that was neither geared towards achieving structural economic transformation nor inclusive growth. Its sole mandate was to contain the public-debt and reduce budget deficit through a fiscal austerity – mainly fixated on the so-

called bloated public service wage bill. This slide back to Neoliberal macroeconomic policies was epitomised by the abandonment of the perspective of the capable developmental state, which is supposed to be the overarching thrust of the role of the state in terms of NDP.

Rather than focusing on diversifying and building the productive capacity of the economy, Treasury in its last budget placed emphasis on managing the public debt.

The National Treasury has to confront and adjust its economic philosophy that has led to the fragmentation of the state and rendered it a mere “regulatory state” through the “right-sizing” of the public service, “down-sizing” of the public sector through privatization and deregulation.

Logically as these cuts intensified, inequalities have widened, and more jobs have been lost. The increase in inequality means working families’ purchasing power is significantly diminished.

To fix this, there is a need to dispense with the illusory assumption that the state is above class conflict. The current socio-economic situation reflects the

class character of the policies that have been implemented by the state since 1996.

The state is a powerful force with a lot of influence. It holds monopoly to tax, print money and to engage in borrowing on behalf of the country. It influences who has access to national productive resources and also determines how they are deployed and used. It is within this context that the role of the state should be understood and framed.

During the period under review, we have also seen the SACP convene a very successful National Congress. As the organised component of the workers, we need spend some time reflecting on some of the decisions taken by the Party’s National Congress.

Our biggest task is to work closely with the SACP to develop and strengthen the organisational power of the working class.

The question that needs to be answered is why we have failed to build working class hegemony inside the movement. We have already made it very clear that the reconfiguration of the Alliance will not be declared in public forums but will happen only if the SACP and COSATU can manage to build working class hegemony.

The ANC also convened a National Policy Conference that while it introduced no new ideas, it reaffirmed the organisation’s commitment to the fight against corruption.

The current period represents a huge challenge for the working class. This is a breaking point because the current economic trends have unleashed very harsh conditions especially for the working class and the poor, on top of the already severe triple-crises of unemployment, poverty, and inequality.

As workers, we continue to argue for radical economic shift that will help the country towards a new growth trajectory. It has become obvious now that the current policies have not only failed to advance a radical economic shift, but they are actually threatening to reverse certain progressive advances that have been made by the ANC and government.

We should remain ready to push back against Neoliberalism, and we also need to build on our growing strength by leading from the front in the battle against poverty, unemployment, and inequality.



Norman Mampane - **Editor**

Word from the Editor

The Congress of South African Trade Union 14th National Congress is upon us. This year, 2022 has been a busy year politically with the SACP holding its 15th National Congress at Boksburg and the ANC concluding its National Policy Conference at Nasrec, in Johannesburg. Our National Democratic Revolution has been suffering from setbacks which threatened the Congress Movement to overcome critical challenges confronting society such as the monopoly capitalist domination of the economy, colonial and apartheid legacy, the reproduction of crisis-high levels of inequality, unemployment, poverty and effects of corruption and state capture.

What inspires us all is that there is a political alertness amongst Alliance partners to engage robustly to resolve these political, organizational and socio-economic hurdles.

The SACP 15th National Congress on building a powerful, class conscious trade union movement resolved that, "the Party reaffirms its support for democratic worker control of trade unions, trade union resources and workers' funds. We will work to build the unity of workers in action, across trade unions and across federations. The SACP says to the workers, together: "Let us build workers' powers in the workplace and in the economy at large." "Let us fight outsourcing in the economy." "Let us fight labour-brokering in the public and private sector and build the unity of workers in the formal and informal sectors." "Let us build worker-controlled co-operatives in all sectors of the economy as an instrument of structural economic and social transformation and development." Working-class and popular power in our proletarian communities Proletarian communities are the

historic sites of militant class struggles. However, over the past three decades, they have been ravaged by neoliberalism. We will continue to deepen our campaigns in working class communities to win the following demands. • The struggle for a universal basic income grant, which should lift working-class households out of absolute poverty and help build capacity for the broad working class to become the collective agents of fundamental change. • The struggle for the right to work for all—beginning with the massive expansion of public employment programmes: where the work is not just temporary, but ongoing; where we care for infrastructure that makes our communities cleaner and safer places to live; where collective work rebuilds social cohesion and overcomes the huge despair and sense of alienation amongst millions of unemployed youth."

Meanwhile the ANC President, Cyril Ramaphosa closing the ANC National Policy Conference said "We are all agreed that we must unite all South Africans to achieve the complete emancipation of all our people. We have noted that across all the commissions, there was a shared consensus that both the ANC and government must respond "adequately, urgently and assertively" to the challenges that our people confront on a daily basis. The challenges include unemployment, poverty, crime, gender-based violence and femicide, corruption, social cohesion, racism, the energy crisis and the rising cost of living. Delegates recognised that these many challenges will not be resolved unless we intensify the genuine renewal of the ANC and the building of a capable, ethical and developmental state. This means that we need to clearly define and articulate the

character of the ANC as a nonracial, non-sexist and democratic liberation movement that must organise, mobilise and lead the motive forces and society in pursuit of a National Democratic Society. The renewal of the ANC therefore requires that we remain rooted among the people, must demonstrate a willingness to serve and make sacrifices, and must be willing to acknowledge and address our weaknesses. Comrades, this Conference has demonstrated more clearly than ever before our common commitment to rid our organisation of factionalism, patronage and corruption, and to rebuild and to renew. It has made the unequivocal statement that we must fulfil the promise that we have made to our people to place their interests and their well-being among all others. We have reaffirmed the resolutions of the 54th National Conference on corruption and state capture.

The overwhelming view of Policy Conference is for the retention of the step-aside provisions to enhance the integrity of the movement and its leadership. Conference noted strong concerns on the perceived lack of consistency in the application and implementation of the policy. Conference agreed that these must receive urgent attention so that the application of the guidelines is impartial, fair and consistent."

In this Bulletin we covered how 'Women in the health and care sector face a larger gender pay gap than in other economic sectors, earning on average of 24 per cent less than peers who are men, according to a new joint report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO)"

COSATU National Gender Conference resolved to campaign for Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value. And the Banyana Banyana

case versus Bafana Bafana has got popular support across society to be treated with the same glove as the senior men's team. Congratulations to Banyana Banyana and also to Miss South Africa, Ndavu Nokeri for raising the confidence of a girl-child in all our communities.

Let's continue to honour women leaders such as Jasmin Jessie Duarte, Ruth First, Violet Seboni, Alina Rantsoalase, Mme Emma Mashinini and countless others for their contributions in the struggle for liberation and equal rights for all.

Workers have continued to observe Nelson Mandela International Day, a celebration for everyone to take action and inspire change in their communities. The first democratically-elected President of South Africa, and the country's first Black leader, died in December 2013 at age 95. And the annual commemoration on 18 July, his birthday, recognizes his contribution to the culture of peace and freedom.

We applaud affiliated trade unions for raising the flag high up on social responsibility activities within our communities! We have interviewed the first former Deputy President of the federation, Comrade Cornelia 'Connie' September, now Doctor September, a trade unionist from the Western Cape who was deployed to become a Member of Parliament as an ANC member on why it is important to promote worker education as a lifelong activity. And she shared her insights on what needs to be done!

We wish COSATU 14th National Congress coming in September at Gallagher Estate, Midrand successful deliberations. Class Struggle is a political struggle!

It is not yet Uhuru!

Worker Issues



SACP holds a successful

15th National Congress at Boksburg

The South African Communist Party concluded its 15th National Congress held at Boksburg for four-days, with extended hours requested to wrap up its organizational business in the early hours of Sunday morning, 17th July 2022.

The Congress was duly attended by about 400 voting delegates, representing 319 108 members in good standing from across Districts and Branches of the Party, under the Theme: “Together, Let’s Build a Powerful, Socialist Movement of the Workers and Poor”. This theme is crucial to taking forward our strategic slogan: “Socialism is the Future—Build it Now!”

Its [Congress] major organizational task was to debate draft Resolutions, to come up with Programmes and Strategic Interventions for the Party and elect National Officials and the new Central Committee for the Five-Year Term which will end in July 2027.

“The Congress took place in a very different context from the 14th National Congress in 2017. The domestic and global circumstances are much more negative now than then for significant transformation in the interests of the working class and poor. We have

been hit globally by Covid-19, a major downturn in the economy, increasing inequality within and between countries, the impact of the war in Ukraine, imperialist aggression, a swing to the right and social and political polarisation. Our Congress is taking place when the country’s having the worst economic crisis ever,” said General Secretary Cde Blade Nzimande.

“There’s global and domestic runaway inflation and the cost of living is sky-high. This worsens the structural weaknesses of our economy. “Our major focus at this Congress has to be our economic challenges. We have no choice”, argued Nzimande.”

SACP 14th National Congress National Chairperson, Senzeni Zokwana, chairing the opening session said “This SACP National Congress takes place at a very challenging time in the history of our liberation movement, struggle, and democratic dispensation. As we say in the discussion documents that we published since April, building on the concrete analysis of the concrete conditions that we produced before, this National Congress is taking place at a time of multiple, mutually reinforcing crises of the capitalist system. Our

national unemployment situation has gone beyond a crisis. At one of our recent Central Committee plenaries, we characterised the unemployment crisis in our country as a catastrophe. Let us recall. The lowest unemployment in our democratic dispensation was a whopping 16,5 percent in 1995. In 1996, the year in which the government imposed the neoliberal economic policy called Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR), unemployment shot up to crisis-high levels of above 20 per cent. These two figures, dear comrades, are in terms of the officially preferred narrow definition of unemployment. They exclude the discouraged work-seekers. If discouraged work-seekers are taken into account, the unemployment history of our democratic dispensation is worse than it is narrowly defined. However, even in terms of the narrow definition, since GEAR was adopted, and its legacy institutionalised in our economic policy framework unemployment never came down to 20 per cent. In fact, the catastrophe has been worsening with every global crisis, namely the 2008 global economic crisis, the end of the global mineral commodity super cycle

in 2011, and the COVID-19 pandemic and great lockdowns. As things stand, the unemployment rate of active and discouraged African work-seekers, regardless of gender, is 50 per cent. This means 50 out of every 100 Africans of a working age are involuntarily unemployed. Coloured regardless of gender, are the second most affected national group after Africans, while Coloured are followed by Indians/Asian. The racial characteristics of the unemployment catastrophe reflect the legacy of colonialism of a special type. In terms of age, the youth is the most affected, while women are the most affected in terms of gender. However, Africans remain the most affected within these two social categories. The legacy of colonialism of special type is also reflected in the inequality, poverty and what we call the crisis of social reproduction, meaning the enormous difficulty facing working-class and poor families to make ends meet. Inequality and poverty, like unemployment, have also worsened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over and above that, we are faced with an unfolding global cost of living crisis. The prices of fast-moving consumer goods, such as

food, have risen rapidly and continue to rise. This is because of the impact of COVID-19, the climate change crisis, the NATO-provoked war in Ukraine, and the extra-territorial sanctions imposed by NATO on countries like Venezuela and Russia. Russia is a major oil producer and while Venezuela has the world's largest proven oil reserves."

A moment of silence was observed to honour Trade Unionists who passed on such as John Nkadameng, Stalin Mtshali, Ronald Mofokeng, David Siphunzi, Koena Ramatlou, Jackson Mthembu, John Dlamini, Joyce Pekani and Kgetsi Lehoko.

"We wish to express our Party's sincere condolences once again to our fallen comrades and heroes, including to the families of the frontline workers who passed away, both in our country and across the world, fighting COVID-19, saving the lives of those who contracted the deadly virus", said Comrade Pat Horn leading the Congress in the reading of the names.

"We will honour some of the Comrades as we are also going to present Awards such as the Moses Kotane Award, Chris Hani Peace Award, Dora Tamana Award, Florence Matomela Award, and Alpheus Malivha Award and Special Recognition Awards."

Tabling the 15th SACP National Congress Political Report, the outgoing General Secretary, Comrade Blade Nzimande said "As we complete this centenary year of the South African Communist Party, our tasks and responsibilities are greater than ever. We are now nearly three decades beyond the decisive democratic breakthrough of 1994. It was a breakthrough that marked the formal end of decades of white minority rule built on three centuries of colonialism.

The Party, along with its allies, was in the forefront of that decisive breakthrough. But after nearly three decades, life for the working class and for the broader majority of South Africans is in crisis, and the burden of this crisis hits women, and working-class women in particular, hardest. It is no secret that the momentum of our national democratic struggle has stalled on many fronts. In some respects, it is in reverse. It is no secret that our leading alliance partner, the ANC, by its own admission, is facing major internal challenges. A divided, progressive trade union movement, in a sea of mass unemployment, is generally weaker now than 30 years ago. Proletarian

communities (mainly in urban townships and informal settlements, as well as in former Bantustans) are torn apart by the daily struggles for survival. The current socio-economic crisis is deeply felt by the condition of the youth in our society - especially the exceedingly high levels of youth unemployment. One particular manifestation of the crisis facing young people is that nearly 4 million young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years are neither in education, employment or training (NEETs). These NEETs are largely youth from black working-class and poor families. The crisis facing young people best illustrates the extent to which our national democratic revolution is encumbered by the very same contradictions it seeks to address! It is perhaps apt to put up front the reason for the impact of the multiple crises of capitalism hitting working-class women hardest.

This conceptual understanding must be brought to bear in our analysis and strategies to build a socialist society that does not discriminate and embed inequality between people, including based on race and gender. For instance, capitalism abdicates responsibility, beyond the lowest wage capital can negotiate, for the social reproduction of the workers, their children and their elderly family members. This responsibility is shifted to women and to the state. In the household, it is women who carry a disproportionate burden of housework.

Women are said to work a double day—go to work be it in the informal economy or the formal public or private sector, and then come home and start again with cooking, cleaning, homework, bathing children, looking after elderly and sick members of the family, and often tending to the needs of the men of the household as well. The less that the state provides public goods essential for a working-class family's livelihood, the more it is the unpaid care work of women that carries the family.

It is this unpaid labour that is not counted in the national statement of accounts, it is not factored into the GDP, it is not factored into the contribution that each person makes to the society. This double day, with unpaid care work, is ideologically justified by patriarchy and gender stereotypes that define women as careers, as cooks, and in some cultures prevent women from being involved in particular activities, particularly when they are in their biological reproductive cycle, or menstruating. To truly shift the

burden off women, society must do at least four things—ensure that women's reproductive life cycle is accepted and supported in a manner that enables them to participate fully in society; secondly eradicate gender inequality within the "private" sphere of the family; thirdly, ensure that women are safe in the home, in the community, and in the workplace; and fourthly, ensure that women have access to and resources for full participation in the economy, in politics and in social life. In all this, black working-class and poor women are the most affected because of the legacy of the triple oppression that comprised racial oppression and discrimination, class super-exploitation and patriarchal domination.

As a vanguard Party, we must bring this understanding to bear throughout our structures, in work with our allies, and in all campaigns and struggles that we are involved in. Let us return to the question: Why is the life for the working class and for the broader majority of South Africans in crisis? And, more importantly, what is to be done? What is the way forward? There are frequent calls for a social compact between so-called social partners—government, business, the labour movement, and civil society. As the SACP, we are not opposed in principle to engagements of this kind, and in fact we support it. But, those proposing it must seriously analyse the structural problems that we need to address.

In particular, we need to do a serious class analysis of what has occurred in South Africa over the past three decades. The sober reality is that the class balance of forces that made possible the radical political and constitutional breakthrough of the mid-1990s has changed. It has changed unfavourably for the broader working class and poor. Any social compact under these conditions will be seriously weighted against the working class and poor, against the working-class youth and working class women in particular in the context of the legacy of colonialism of a special type, including the history of the triple oppression of black women. It will be a compact in which the prevailing and suffocating neoliberal macro-economic framework will be off-limits, non-negotiable. A social compact under these conditions will simply be about some redistributive trade-offs that will not address the deep underlying political economy crisis. That is why for any such compact to succeed, it must be based on concrete analysis of concrete conditions!"

The SACP 15th Congress Congress elected the following comrades as the National Officials of the Party:

- General Secretary - Cde Solly Mapaila
- National Chairperson - Cde Blade Nzimande
- National Deputy Chairperson - Cde Thulas Nxesi
- National Treasurer - Cde Joyce Moloi-Moropa
- 1st Deputy General Secretary - Cde Madala Masuku
- 2nd Deputy General Secretary - Cde David Masondo

A List of additional members of the SACP 15th National Congress Central Committee is as follows:

1. Buti Manamela
2. Alex Mashilo
3. Rob Davis
4. Yunus Carrim
5. Lechesa Tsenoli
6. Chris Mathlako
7. Tinyiko Ntini
8. Yershen Pillay
9. Sdumo Dlamini
10. Zingisa Losi
11. Jenny Schreiner
12. Fikile Majola
13. Ben Martins
14. Polly Boshelo
15. Dipou Mvelase
16. Joyce Tsipa
17. Mike Shingange
18. Gwede Mantashe
19. Kholiswa Fihlani
20. Solly Phetoe
21. Andries Nel
22. Langa Zitha
23. Mabuse Mpe
24. Mungwena Maluleke
25. Nomarashiya Caluza
26. Mluleki Dlelanga
27. Stan Mathabatha
28. Pat Horn
29. Tebogo Phadu
30. Bulelwa Tunyiswa
31. James Nxumalo
32. Zola Sapheta
33. Dibolelo Mahlatsi
34. Rudolph Phala
35. Molly Dhlamini
36. Gregory Brown
37. Jerry Thibedi
38. Berry Mitchel
39. Phumzile Mnguni
40. Matlalepula Likoma
41. Fisani Shabangu
42. Celiwe Madlopha
43. Grace Pampiri
44. Reneva Fourie

Congratulations to all elected comrades!

Worker Issues

"WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE PARTY HAS CHOSEN TO MEET UNDER THE THEME OF



Together, Let Us Build a Powerful, Socialist Movement of the Workers and Poor", said Zingiswa Losi

COSATU President Zingiswa Losi at the 15th National Congress Plenary

The Congress of South African Trade Union's affiliated trade unions, the African National Congress and Mass Democratic Movement formations leadership graced the 15th National Congress of the South African Communist Party at Boksburg, inclusive of a largest number of international Allies of the Party as far as Russia, Palestine, Cuba, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Venezuela. Addressing the Congress COSATU President, Zingiswa Losi resumed to deliver her Message of Solidarity by saying, "Please accept warm revolutionary greetings from the leadership and membership of COSATU and its affiliate unions. We are looking forward to robust, frank and constructive engagements over these 4 days."

"We emphasise constructive engagements as the challenges facing the working class are immense. We need to emerge from this historic congress armed with a clear programme of action and practical solutions to taking working class struggles forward. Revolutionary slogans may give us warm and fuzzy feelings, but they will not address crises of unemployment, collapsing State Owned Enterprises and rampant corruption. We would do well to remember the words of Amílcar Cabral, "Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone's head."

They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children. We want to acknowledge the outgoing leadership of the SACP for their efforts to advance the cause of the working class. Let us remember our many fallen comrades, including John Nkadameng, Stalin Mtshali, Ronald Mofokeng, David Siphunzi, Koena Ramatlou, Jackson Mthembu, John Dlamini, Joyce Pekani and Kgetsi Lehoko. We owe it to their memories, to redouble our efforts to build the party and leave this congress united and rejuvenated."

"We are pleased that the party has chosen to meet under the theme of Together, Let Us Build a Powerful, Socialist Movement of the Workers and Poor".

Losi reiterated that "There can be no more appropriate call than this. This is what back to basics is about. It takes place in a context when the liberation movement, the National Democratic Revolution and many of our post-1994 gains are under siege like never before. These are the very issues that COSATU and its Affiliates have been seized with. We are keen to hear concrete proposals from this congress on this call. COSATU was founded upon the objective of one federation, one country, one union, one industry. We have championed the belief that the ANC is the shield and COSATU the spear of the working class and indeed the liberation movement. COSATU and its Affiliates have been seized with this critical task. COSATU's 13th Congress provided a clear mandate to unite the working class."

COSATU and other Federations work closely together at Nedlac and in key interventions in the economy. NUM, AMCU, UASA and Solidarity dealt a decisive blow for workers at Sibanye. NUM, NUMSA and Solidarity are united at Eskom. SATAWU and NUMSA have worked together in the aviation and bus sectors. SACTWU and NULAW are united in the clothing sector. We welcome the call by this congress to support efforts to unite the working class. The party has played a critical role in COSATU, SACTU and Affiliates and working class struggles for many decades. This is symbolised in JB Marks who led not only the mine workers' struggles but also the party. It is recorded in the work done factory by factory by Ray Alexander to recruit and unionise fishing, clothing, laundry and many other workers up and down the Western Cape over many years. Whilst we laud this proud history, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels when workers are under siege."

We need to hear from this congress, what role the party sees for itself in helping to

unionise workers? In helping to conscientise workers? In helping to build and unite diverse unions into strong sector wide Affiliates? In helping to popularise and mobilise workers to support the campaigns of COSATU and Affiliates?

"We are allies, indeed the SACP and COSATU are the left axis of the movement. But we must remember that our organisations are independent member mandated formations. We must respect each other's organisational processes and mandates. We need to learn from our painful lessons. Factions are dressed up with ideological clothing, but they have divided our organisations and weakened our movement."

What is the role of the SACP?

"This is a question that Congress should endeavour to answer. Many have written off the party. They did so with the collapse of the socialist block across the world in 1990. Yet the party has survived against difficult odds. We have seen the membership of the party grow. We have seen party leaders play critical roles in government. As the party seeks to grow it needs to reflect on what it is doing to build its organisational capacity? If it wants to attract workers to its ranks, it needs to be seen to have the ability to implement its revolutionary demands." Congress should reflect on what is the correct balance between full time leaders and leaders deployed to government and how do those employees implement decisions of the party in government?

Is it important for this congress to engage upon is what is our vision for socialism in South Africa? What will be its South African characteristics? What is its foundation and building blocks? What is our road to building it, within our lifetime? We must answer these questions if we are to earn the support of workers."

Let us heed Amílcar Cabral's wise words "Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are

told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures. Claim no easy victories."

"The party has been a progressive voice. The party spoke well when they opposed state capture and the lack of transformation in the private sector. But this is not enough. Workers need to hear the voice of the party when nurses and teachers are denied their due wage increases. Workers did not hear or see the party when the government in which the leadership of the party serves, choose to renege upon a signed wage agreement and blatantly undermine collective bargaining. The silence has been deafening. Workers need to hear the party when workers are sent home without their salaries at SA Express, when workers are retrenched at SAA. Workers need to hear the party when municipal workers in Amathole are paid with Pick 'n Pay vouchers."

Police and Correctional Service Officers need to hear the party when government refuses to increase workers' wages and instead offers non-pensionable cash gratuity whilst members of Cabinet and Parliament pay themselves increases. Workers need to hear the party when workers are not paid, wherever they are and for whomever they work for. We cannot condemn private sector employers for abusing the rights of workers and be silent when government and the Alliance does the same. Our labour laws are passed by our Parliament. They are presided over by our Minister for Employment and Labour. They are binding upon all of us. We must lead from the front when it comes to enforcing and respecting the rights of workers. We will not be silent when it comes to the rights of workers and the laws of the Republic as COSATU." "Workers are under siege like never before since the 1994 breakthrough."

"Unemployment is at an unbearable 45%, 2.2 million jobs were lost since 2020, millions are drowning in debt. Many key SOEs have or are dying. Many municipalities are collapsing. Those who are lucky to have jobs, are drowning in debt. The economy is in its

deepest recession. Thousands of companies have closed. Our economic recovery is being crippled by load shedding. Thousands of jobs in the mining, agricultural and manufacturing sectors are at risk due to cable theft in Transnet and port blockages. Productivity is disrupted by the collapse of Metro Rail. Workers are battling to afford to travel to work and take care of their families with galloping fuel price, interest rate and inflation increases. It is critical this congress be seized with developing practical solutions to these real crises devastating the lives of workers. We commend the work done by the Department of Employment and Labour and the Unemployment Insurance Fund during the past two years. DEL and the UIF worked hand in glove with COSATU at Nedlac to ensure that we dispensed more than R64 billion from the UIF to more than 5.5 million workers across the private sector to ensure that they were able to take care of their families and help save millions of jobs."

"Yes, there are real crises in the UIF, including instances of corruption and archaic IT systems. These need to be fixed. But we must appreciate the spirit with which the comrades worked with COSATU to help protect workers. COSATU helped draft the Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan with government, business and community at Nedlac, our legislated social dialogue forum. We acknowledge the role played by leaders of the party deployed as to Cabinet who played a key role in developing the ERRP. The ERRP is not a policy. It is about implementing existing commitments and immediate interventions to kick start the economy and in particular to save Eskom and other key SOEs. The ERRP is a plan to enable the economy to recover from state capture, corruption and Covid-19. Further engagements are needed on the long-term transformation of the economy. We need to hear the voice of the party in these engagements. We need to see the party at Nedlac as part of the community delegation once again."

"There can be no economic recovery without a capacitated developmental state."

"Our state is in real danger of imploding. The damage done to it by members of the movement is unbelievable and will cost us for many years. Companies are closing because municipalities cannot provide basic services. Workers are being denied their increases and pickpocketed by the state because of the billions lost to corruption. The public services workers and the economy are choking because government is simply running out of revenue. We applaud the work being done by workers at South African Revenue Services [SARS] to tackle tax evasion generating an additional R60 billion enabling government to extend the SRD Grant and the Presidential Employment Stimulus. These positive efforts need to be extended. We must not further decapitate the state with reckless austerity and neo-liberal budget cuts."

Why should we be surprised with rising levels of crime when we have cut the SAPS headcount over the past 5 years from 192 000 to 172 000? "Our State-Owned Enterprises [SOE's] are dying as we meet here. A decade ago, they were world class institutions that delivered upon their developmental and economic mandates, spurred economy growth and supported jobs. Today, they are bleeding the state, retrenching workers, and suffocating the economy. The party spoke passionately in defence of South African Airways, but we have not heard the party speak out in defence of other key SOEs, in particular Eskom, Transnet and Metro Rail. We believe that these SOEs can and must be saved. They have a critical role to play in the economy. We are hoping that this congress will table practical proposals on how these SOEs can be saved, repivoted and supported. We need to hear the voice of the party join us in the fight against privatisation."

What is the party's view on the appropriate SOE model? Are there best practises from China or Vietnam that we should learn from? Which sectors of the economy should the state be involved in? And in what manner and form?

"COSATU welcomes the amendment of Regulation 28 to allow pension funds to invest in infrastructure. This will be a positive injection in the economy. We must remember that pension funds, the UIF and the Compensation Fund, belong to workers. It must be workers who decide how they are spent. They are not a slush fund for corrupt politicians and their relatives. The Unemployment Insurance Fund and Compensation are funded by workers and employers. Government has run away from contributing to them. It is incorrect for community organisations to be represented on the UIF and COIDA Boards. We hope that the party will support organised labour in these demands. COSATU appreciates the close partnership that we have enjoyed with some members of the party in Parliament. Key legislative victories advancing the cause of workers were achieved because of the support we received from Members of Parliament from the party, including the amendments to the Labour Relations Act restricting labour brokers, the introduction of a National Minimum Wage, the PIC Amendment Act appointing worker representatives to the PIC and providing an unashamedly pro-worker investment mandate, and efforts to cushion workers from the VAT increase and the carbon and sugar taxes." "If we are to salvage and save the NDR, then we must cleanse the ANC, and rebuild the Alliance."

"We cannot afford to see the ANC further deteriorate. The ANC needs the party and COSATU to help cleanse it of its demons, corruption, factionalism and hooliganism. If we fail to help rebuild the ANC, then we are in real danger of losing the 2024 elections. An ANC which fails to secure 51% will struggle to form a coalition with opposition parties determined

to destroy the Alliance and reverse the many gains we have secured since 1994. This will be a devastating blow to the working class."

Losi said "Former President Mbeki is correct. There can be no unity with criminals. Those who have broken the law must go to prison no matter their status in life. In fact, the failure of the NPA, SAPS and judiciary to ensure that the most senior criminals amongst us go to jail is exactly why the nation, movement and workers are in these crises. COSATU and workers were not wrong to place their faith in President Ramaphosa in 2017 and the ANC in 2019. We need to help restore the ANC to its path. To once again make it a movement that OR Tambo and Chris Hani would be proud of. To do this we need a vibrant, a united, a working class orientated SACP at the forefront. We need a party that provides the clarity of vision that Joe Slovo so often did. Allow me to conclude by wishing this congress well on behalf of COSATU. Your tasks are indeed daunting. The challenges facing the working class are immense. Workers are looking to the party to provide a concrete and sober plan of action in defence of the working class and a clear road map to building socialism. This congress must play its role in restoring the liberation to its historic path and in saving the NDR and our gains."

Meanwhile, SADTU, NEHAWU and other affiliated trade unions wished the 15th SACP National Congress a success. Mugwena Maluleke, SADTU General Secretary said "We remain confident that the SACP will deliberate at length and come out with lasting solutions in their continued efforts to defend workers from the greedy capitalists whose primary focus has been profit-maximisation. It is also our view that the vanguard Party of the workers should take this opportunity to introspect and reflect on the role that it should play to unite the workers, the poor and the organised labour formations aligned to it. The Party should as it deliberates on very much needed macro-economic policy innovations that this moment that our body politic calls for and at the same time be oblivious of organisational challenges that confront us. As a Union, we will continue to work even closer with our vanguard Party, hence our very strong view that the Party should be even more upfront in fighting against the cancer of corruption not only in as far as the state is concerned but the organised labour formations aligned to it as well. The Party should not and cannot find itself embracing the protagonists of corruption that at some point worked extremely hard to liquidate our Union in particular. The battle of ideas is complex, particularly across the ideological spectrum. It is thus necessary for the vanguard party of the workers as it continues to guide us on complex macro-political and socio-economic issues to sustain an optimal working relationship with the organised labour formations aligned to it. Most

importantly, we wish all delegates the best in forging unity towards a stronger SACP that will build stronger worker-controlled solidarity in improving working conditions within all sectors." Zola Sapetha, NEHAWU General Secretary said "The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union [NEHAWU] wishes the vanguard party of the working class, the South African Communist Party [SACP] a successful 15th National Congress, under the theme "Together, Let us Build a Powerful, Socialist Movement of the Workers and Poor". Indeed, the congress theme succinctly captures correctly the imperative task of the moment for the SACP, that of creating a socialist movement of workers and the poor. The congress is convened at a time when the systematic crises of capitalism have obliterated the working class throughout the world, subjecting the class to extreme levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality. The situation in our country continues unabatedly with no foreseeable prospect of improving. Equally, this national congress is convened when our National Democratic Revolution [NDR] has reached a critical point of stagnation - facing multiple threats from various social forces that are fundamental opposed to the transformation agenda. Currently, there is a serious total onslaught being meted-out against the working class from its class enemies. Indeed, this congress presents the SACP with an opportunity to provide the working-class with much needed strategic solutions to the crises that face the class."

The working-class more than ever before needs its vanguard party to lead in the quest of changing the current prevailing situation. The Party needs to agitate the working class against the oppressive system of capitalism and continuously agitate for the alternative system to capitalism. As NEHAWU, we expect a congress that will be characterised by rich deliberations uniting progressive forces in general and the working class in particular around the strategic objectives of the National Democratic Revolution. This 15th National Congress should be a turning point in clarifying in content the successful prosecution of the socialist struggle in South Africa and the World. We are looking forward to the resolutions that will emerge from this congress particularly in clarifying the question of the Left Popular Front. As NEHAWU, we have been grappling with the question of the left popular front as mandated by our 12th National Congress and as such, we have developed a concept paper as part of our contribution to these broad discussions on the left popular. Lastly, this congress should be about building a strong vanguard party that is rooted amongst the working-class. In this regard, NEHAWU commits itself to work towards building a strong vanguard party of the working-class that will carry out the strategic task of building a socialist movement of workers and poor."

Worker Issues



SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

15th National Congress Declaration adopted on the 16th July 2022

Solly Mapaila elected as the SACP General Secretary at Boksburg

Together, let us build a powerful, socialist movement of the workers and poor. We, the 400 voting delegates representing approximately 340,000 members of the SACP, as well as members of the Young Communist League of South Africa across the country, met from 13 to 16 July 2022 in Boksburg, constituting the historic 15th National Congress of our Party. In attendance were our Alliance partners, the ANC and COSATU, and formations of the mass democratic movement, as well as other fraternal organisations and distinguished guests from our country.

Also in attendance were representatives of communist and other anti-imperialist fraternal organisations from other countries in Africa, South America, North America, Europe, and Asia. We met in the centenary year of the Young Communist League of South Africa and as we complete the Communist Party's hundred years of unbroken struggle to advance, deepen and defend the national democratic revolution and an advance towards socialism. This has been a centenary of communist struggles to educate, organise and mobilise the working-class and its allies against a system that puts profits before people, a system that puts private accumulation before the environment, the crisis-ridden system of capitalism. It is this exploitative system that breeds the crisis-levels of racialised and gendered mass poverty, unemployment and inequality, as well as the associated

crises of social reproduction and rising cost of living.

We met against the background of nearly 30 years since our April 1994 democratic breakthrough, which marked the end of decades of white minority rule and three hundred years of colonialism in our country. The April 1994 democratic breakthrough opened the prospects for a new, radical phase of the national democratic revolution, our strategy for democratic transformation and development towards socialism.

Many political and social gains have been made by the working-class majority over the last 30 years, but so have many opportunities been lost in deepening a radical structural economic transformation in favour of the workers and poor.

The country's economy remains dominated by monopoly capital, with the continuing colonial and apartheid legacy deepening its multiple systemic crises, including inequality, unemployment, poverty, and the associated rise in cost-of-living. This situation has now been worsened by the crises of health pandemics, such as the deadly COVID-19 virus, and climate change. Major aspects of working-class lives are in a crisis, mostly hitting women and youth the hardest, as the income of workers and poor sharply decline because of the crisis of rising cost-of-living.

In the circumstances, the main question that Congress focused on is what is to be done?

Roll back the neoliberal macroeconomic framework

Our national democratic revolution is threatened by the very things it seeks to overcome—the monopoly capitalist domination of the economy, its colonial and apartheid legacy, including the reproduction of crisis-high levels of inequality, unemployment, and poverty. Related to this, the financialisation of our economy undermines our ability to advance the programmes that the workers and poor need, such as industrialisation, a major infrastructure development programme, a universal basic income grant, and a National Health Insurance.

The working-class or proletarian communities—mainly in urban townships and informal settlements, as well as in former Bantustans—are torn apart by the daily struggles for survival. The increasingly exploited and unemployed workers and poor are more and more becoming disillusioned with electoral politics because of the impact of policy failures, the impact of neoliberalism and the consequences of corruption.

Therefore, the SACP rejects the call for a “social compact” that is aimed at co-opting the working-class to advance neoliberal policy reforms originating from the IMF, the World Bank, the OECD, imperialist credit rating agencies and other supranational bodies controlled and wielded by the US-led imperialist forces. Such a “social compact” excludes the

crucial imperative to change the macroeconomic framework under which South Africa failed to reduce unemployment, eradicate poverty, and bring down the astronomical levels of inequality.

For the past 26 years, since the government imposed the neoliberal economic policy called Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR), the SACP and other militant working-class formations have been calling for a change in the macroeconomic framework. Without a fundamental shift in the macroeconomic framework, South Africa will continue to experience the problems of the crisis-high levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality that it has failed to address since 1996 after the government-imposed GEAR.

The persistence of these problems directly results from GEAR and its lasting legacy, including its shock therapy, besides the persisting legacy of colonialism and apartheid, and the impact of global capitalist crises.

Emerging from the 15th National Congress of our Party, we will intensify this struggle for a change in policy content and direction, most especially challenging neoliberalism.

The SACP rejects the dogmatic and widely discredited neoliberal macroeconomic framework and other policy measures which undermine our efforts to drive democratic transformation and developmental programmes of benefit to the workers

and poor. We reject the agenda of neoliberal austerity pushed by the National Treasury, which has meant massive budget cuts spending on public services and goods, resulting in a social crisis in working-class communities and affecting working-class women and youth, mostly black.

The SACP says no to the hyper-financialisation of our country's economy. Financialisation has shifted financial resources away from the productive economy and social investments to speculative investments in the casino economy, the financial markets. These resources include retirement funds and other financial assets held by the banks and financial institutions, and many are controlled by financial services "providers". Workers need to assert their control over investments by their pension funds. Investing in the productive sector to drive major industrialisation and infrastructure development programmes towards expanding access to work for all should be an apex priority.

This is one reason the government, with mobilised working-class support, needs to enforce prescribed assets on financial sector investments through legislation. This should include investments in areas of critical public developmental importance, such as a just, green transition.

It is critical to strengthen public financial institutions—the DBSA, the IDC, the Land Bank, the PIC, the Postbank, and provincial financial entities—to play a developmental role. This should be guided by a clearer mandating of the South African Reserve Bank to support the public development finance institutions.

In intensifying our campaign for a fundamental change in economic policy, including macroeconomic policy, we will push to dislodge neoliberalism in our national economic and social policy space. Without such a change, the masses of young people and women, who are black in their majority, will continue to be devastated by the high levels of unemployment, poverty, inequality and the crisis of social reproduction, and South Africa will not turn the tide against de-industrialisation.

To advance our policy objectives, we will build a powerful, socialist movement of the workers and poor, guided by the 2022 iteration of the

SACP programme titled The South African Struggle for Socialism, inclusive of our Strategic Perspectives and Tasks. Immediate key priorities of our programme in the face of the catastrophic and unsustainable reality confronting most South Africans and around which we need to prioritise our mobilisation of the workers and the poor include:

A powerful, class conscious trade union movement

SACP reaffirms its support for democratic worker control of trade unions, trade union resources and workers' funds. We will work to build the unity of workers in action, across trade unions and across federations.

The SACP says to the workers, together: "Let us build workers' powers in the workplace and in the economy at large." "Let us fight outsourcing in the economy."

"Let us fight labour-brokering in the public and private sector and build the unity of workers in the formal and informal sectors." "Let us build worker-controlled co-operatives in all sectors of the economy as an instrument of structural economic and social transformation and development."

Working-class and popular power in our proletarian communities

Proletarian communities are the historic sites of militant class struggles. However, over the past three decades, they have been ravaged by neoliberalism. We will continue to deepen our campaigns in working-class communities to win the following demands.

- The struggle for a universal basic income grant, which should lift working-class households out of absolute poverty and help build capacity for the broad working-class to become the collective agents of fundamental change.
- The struggle for the right to work for all—beginning with the massive expansion of public employment programmes: where the work is not just temporary, but ongoing; where we care for infrastructure that makes our communities cleaner and safer places to live; where collective work rebuilds social cohesion and overcomes the huge despair and sense of alienation amongst millions of unemployed youth; where public employment work is productive

and addresses the crises of social reproduction and poverty. This will include campaigning for an expansion of public employment in the caring economy, in early childhood learning, in the provision of collective food gardens and food kitchens, in sustaining places of safety for women and children.

- Build and strengthen the networks of community-based co-operatives, including organising community-owned stores and community-owned banking institutions, savings and burial societies.
- Active working-class involvement in the many institutions of participatory democracy, such as the community policing forums, school governing bodies, neighbourhood watches and street committees.
- Rebuild trade union locals in our communities as key points of focus from which we can help co-ordinate popular activism and rebuild workplace–community solidarity.
- Support government efforts directed at the township and village economy and the District Development Model, ensuring that these programmes impact positively on the lives of the working-class and poor.

Land reform for urban and rural transformation

South Africa needs radical land reform for both urban transformation, where 70 per cent of our people now live, and for rural development and transformation. Besides rural areas, and mainly the bantustans, the working-class and poor remain largely confined to peripheral townships and informal settlements that were designed as dormitory locations for the reproduction of cheap migrant black labour.

Apartheid legislation has been removed, but now the financialised property market acts with equal brutality in forcing the majority of workers and poor to live on the margins, in poverty traps far away from resources, amenities, and recreational facilities. While we seek to transform the reality within these settlements, we will equally strive to transform the overall spatial design of our towns and cities.

Land reform in our rural areas must

be guided by the Freedom Charter's clarion call for land to be shared among those who work it. Rural land reform, development and transformation must be directed to the population still living in the former Bantustans as a priority.

The SACP will campaign for:

- A land reform programme which focuses on providing infrastructure, water rights, agricultural extension officers and veterinary services to the most marginalised.
- Security of tenure for small and subsistence farmers, giving full recognition to a variety of tenure, including communal land tenure rights.
- Unscrupulous evictions of farmworkers and their families from farms to stop.
- The evictions of labour tenants and their families from farms on which they have lived and worked to cease. These evictions are nothing less than an ongoing colonial expropriation. As the SACP we say: "EXPROPRIATE THE EXPROPRIATORS...and without compensation! Return the former labour tenants as rightful owners to what are, in reality, their OWN farms."

A radical transformation of the financial sector

In the 2000s, the SACP launched the Financial Sector Campaign as part of its Red October Campaign. Through the campaign, the SACP successfully mobilised over 50 other formations.

The Financial Sector Campaign culminated in a Financial Sector Summit, convened by the government. Its most important achievements are those that immediately impacted positively on the working-class and the precarious strata of the middle class. These include transparency and regulation of credit bureaux, access to banking facilities, and the regulations of loans, clamping down on reckless and predatory lending practices, and addressing unregulated and unscrupulous home repossession by the profit-driven exploitative commercial banks.

The National Credit Act and Regulator (now the Financial Sector Conduct Authority), which cushioned South Africa from the impact of the 2008 global crisis, were the direct achievements of the SACP-led Financial Sector Campaign. We also

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drove the passing of legislation on co-operative banking through the campaign.

The time has come to intensify the Financial Sector Campaign. But this time, while mobilising based on financial consumer issues (for debt relief, against repossessions, and against the high transactional costs charged by the banking oligopolies), we will more militantly address the larger structural issues. The SACP, together with other working-class formations, community organisations, sectoral organisations, among others, will:

- Campaign to stop the massive illicit flows of capital from South Africa. The SACP will deepen the campaign for tight regulation of the capital account, cross-border capital transitions, and to roll back the erosion of exchange controls to protect our economy against exposure to the unbridled volatility of the dog-eat-dog insatiable pursuit of private wealth accumulation. Our efforts will include measures to direct investment into the productive sector to industrialise our economy, create employment, drive poverty eradication, and tackle inequality and uneven development. The South African Revenue Services, the South African Reserve Bank and other key state institutions in the financial sector must up their game.
- Campaign for the enforcement of prescribed asset requirements on the banks and financial institutions, to ensure that a significant proportion of their investments goes to the productive sector to build national production and create employment and infrastructure development.
- Campaign for the consolidation of a strong, developmental public banking sector, comprising national, provincial and sectoral state-owned banks and financial institutions, which the South African Reserve Bank MUST actively support. In terms of articulation, this will be buttressed by the national democratic revolutionary imperative to achieve the Freedom Charter's vision of the state banking sector—the common property of all—to breakdown the monopoly of profit-driven, commercial banking

interests.

- Campaign for the mandate of the South African Reserve Bank to target inclusively economic growth and moderate interest rates.
- Campaign for a thriving co-operative banking sector at all levels, national, provincial and local.

Dismantling the networks of state capture and clamping down on other forms of corruption

As the SACP 15th National Congress, we welcomed the submission made by the Central Committee to the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, the “fraudulent alienation of the state”. In campaigning to dismantle the networks of the fraudulent alienation of the state and to clamp down on other forms of corruption, the SACP will strengthen its capacity to advance the way forward proposed in the submission.

We mandate the 15th National Congress Central Committee of the Party to complete studying the entire text of the commission's report, its orientation, findings and recommendations, to produce a comprehensive political and strategic response, to contribute to the programme of action required to dismantle the networks of the state capture corruption and to ensure that state capture does not rear its ugly head again.

We reiterate the Party's call, for the state to move decisively with prosecutorial investigations to hold those who were involved or complicit in the state capture corruption to account, to the full extent of the law.

We expect prosecutions and maximum sentences. In addition, holding to account those who were involved or complicit in the state capture must include using asset forfeiture processes to seize the assets, the proceeds, the ill-gotten wealth that they gained from the corruption

Workers of the world, unite for peace and development

We express our solidarity with the people of Swaziland struggling for democracy, against the repressive monarchy, with the people of Zimbabwe who are facing human rights violations

in a country devastated by virtual economic collapse.

We denounce imperialist aggression by the blood thirsty and trigger-happy United States-dominated NATO. The expansion of NATO, which is an instrument of war, represents the greatest threat to world peace and equality in our time. At present, this is manifesting itself through the NATO-provoked war in Ukraine. The impact of the war, including NATO's weaponisation and wielding of extraterritorial sanctions, includes the global cost-of-living crisis.

We reiterate our call for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Ukraine and for an end to the war on all fronts.

We pledge our solidarity with the people of the world amidst the United States imperialist aggression and foreign occupation, including but not limited to the people of Palestine, Morocco, Syria, Yemen, Venezuela, Bolivia and Nicaragua.

The SACP reiterates its support for the Cuban people and government in their struggle for the United States to lift its unilateral and illegal blockade against Cuba and unconditionally end its occupation of the Cuban territory of Guantanamo Bay. The United Nations General Assembly must make its voice consistent and louder, once again, by voting for the lifting of the blockade.

Build the SACP as a vanguard party of the working-class for socialism

We will strengthen the vanguard character of the SACP in this extremely challenging national and global context. Over the years, the Party has grown in membership from around 10,000 members in 1998 to approximately 340,000 by July 2022.

Over the next five years, we will deepen our work to build and strengthen the independent voice of the SACP and strengthen our political, ideological and organisation capacity to mobilise popular forces and build a powerful, socialist movement of the workers and poor.

This will include deepening political education within the ranks of the Party, to ensure that its membership growth is accompanied by a qualitative growth. We will build the SACP as a

campaigning Party of the working-class and poor for socialism.

As Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels state in the Manifesto of the Communist Party, “the first step in the revolution by the working-class is to raise the proletariat to the position of ruling class to win the battle of democracy”, to build the supremacy of the proletariat, and to organise the proletariat to become, and afterwards as, the ruling class.

The questions of the class character and leadership of the state, and the societal power concentrated, organised and exercised in the state, are crucial to every working-class revolution, including the national democratic revolution, our advance to socialism.

Therefore, we directed the newly elected Central Committee to consolidate and strengthen for finalisation by the next Augmented Central Committee the roadmap of the Party on building working-class leadership of society and hegemony over the state.

In carrying out this task, the Central Committee must pay particular attention to the strategy and tactics suitable for active engagement in the electoral terrain of the class struggle.

This work must be guided by the key task of the SACP arising from the Congress, **“TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A POWERFUL, SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF THE WORKERS AND POOR”: SOCIALISM IS THE FUTURE—BUILD IT NOW!**

SACP 15th National Congress Gallery





Gender Agenda

Comrade JESSIE DUARTE

**Remembered as a Loyal Community Activist, a Faithful Gender
Activist & Dedicated Organizer**

Comrade Jasmin Jessie Duarte passed on the morning of the 17th July 2022 and as per the Muslim burial rites she was buried on the afternoon on the same day at the West Park cemetery around Johannesburg. The country was thrown in a state of shock! COSATU in its statement alluded to the fact that "Cde Jessie Duarte served the ANC with merit and aplomb at many levels. Her many years of activism saw her rise from building the then Federation of Transvaal Women, to being active in the United Democratic Front, and working with the late Beyers Naudé to empower young people with educational opportunities; to rising to the most senior ranks in the liberation movement and the democratic government. In her years as national leader in the ANC she worked very closely with the Federation to unite the Alliance and keep it focused on its work and commitments to the people despite challenges.

She believed in and strove to build a strong Alliance. She was also a great proponent and champion of women holding leadership positions in the movement and society in general. She despised racism and tribalism and did not shy away from calling his own comrades and organisation if she detected any hint of these demons in their conduct. She was not afraid to say exactly how she felt on an issue. The only way for the Alliance to honour Cde Jessie is to work on its unity and in building a non-racial movement and country that empowers women across society. We will forever remember her as a champion of women empowerment, solid advocate for social justice and a formidable leader of our movement."

Bheki Ntshalintshali, COSATU General Secretary said "The Congress of South African Trade Unions is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of ANC Deputy Secretary General Cde Jessie Duarte. We send our heartfelt condolences to the ANC, her family, colleagues, and friends." Coming out of its 15th National Congress, the SACP General Secretary, Solly Mapaila said "the SACP

will make its contribution to the struggle to end patriarchy and defend the gains of the liberation movement. The SACP commits itself to organise the people for working-class power and for the further development of our society, as well as for an end to the exploitation and subjugation of one by another."

Mapaila reiterated that "the South African Communist Party (SACP) conveys its message of deepest condolences to the family of ANC Deputy Secretary General, Comrade Yasmin "Jessie" Duarte, who passed away in the early hours [this morning], of Sunday, 17 July 2022. The SACP also sends heartfelt condolences to the ANC, which she served diligently in various roles over the years, as well as the entire Alliance, the South African liberation movement and people at large. Comrade Jessie, as she was fondly known, devoted her life to the South African struggle for liberation and social emancipation, the national democratic revolution. Spending her young life under the inspirational tutelage of some of our iconic liberation stalwarts such as Comrade Albertina Sisulu, Comrade Jessie went on to inspire more women in South Africa and across the African continent and beyond, to remain resolute in the struggle for women emancipation, along with the emancipation of all oppressed people. Her contribution to the movement thus goes back to the people's struggles against apartheid, for a just, non-racial, and non-sexist society."

Mapaila said "She served on the National Executive Committee of the ANC since the ANC's 51st National Conference in 2002 and had been serving the ANC as Deputy Secretary General since the 53rd National Conference in 2012. The Alliance as a whole has suffered irreplaceable loss in Comrade Jessie's demise. A while ago, Comrade Jessie revived her membership of the SACP and was a member of the SACP in good standing at the time of her passing. The Party, like the ANC, will be poorer without her. Not only was Comrade Jessie the ANC Deputy Secretary General, but she was also a member of the Alliance Secretariat.

She convened and chaired the meetings of the Alliance Secretariat, dealing with difficult questions of our time, like the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. She also convened the meeting of the Alliance Political Council and gave leadership guidance to its drafting team. Comrade Jessie played a central role in these capacities, steering the Alliance Secretariat meetings that produced the Alliance's COVID-19 Response Framework and the effort to save public entities that were ravaged by state capture. In tribute to Comrade Jessie Duarte, the SACP calls for the intensification of the struggle against patriarchy, one of the major features of capitalist society, a struggle Comrade Jessie was passionate about. The Alliance and the entire progressive movement have the task of deepening the struggle against neoliberalism and all its inherent features. In addition to fighting against neoliberalism, we must continue reviving our state-owned entities, which were ravaged by both the forces of neoliberalism and state capture, while building more state capacity for the development of our country. Neither the neoliberal agents nor the state capture looters will lead our country out of the structural capitalist crises faced by the working-class and poor."

Addressing mourners at the West Park cemetery, ANC President, Cyril Ramaphosa said "We gather here in sorrow and disbelief. Although our beloved comrade, Jessie has been gravely ill for several months, it is difficult to comprehend that someone with such vitality and such spirit has departed this earth. Comrade Jessie was a faithful, dedicated and fiercely loyal leader of the African National Congress. It is difficult to imagine the ANC without our beloved DSG, and to think that we will never again hear her voice and her laughter carrying down the corridors of Luthuli House."

Ramaphosa elaborated that "For close on 10 years, she served as ANC Deputy Secretary General. For 25 years, she served on its National Executive Committee."

"And from the years of her youth to her final days, she served the people of South

Africa with dedication, with humility and with a passion that is all too rare. She worked alongside great leaders of our struggle. She learnt the politics of liberation from leaders like Mama Albertina Sisulu, Oom Beyers Naudé and Madiba. From them she imbibed the qualities of revolutionary leadership. Qualities that she was to demonstrate in every position she occupied." "Qualities that she was to pass on to future generations of activists. Throughout her life, Jessie Duarte was an organiser. She was an organiser of women. As the Secretary of the Federation of Transvaal Women – FEDTRAW – she was part of building and leading a powerful women's movement that directly challenged the oppression of black women and shook the foundations of the apartheid state."

Ramaphosa said "She mobilised women across the country to resist the restrictions imposed upon them by a racist and sexist political system and a patriarchal society. Like the generations that had come before, like the defiant women who burnt their passes in 1913, like the defiant women who marched on the Union Buildings in 1956, Jessie was determined that women should occupy their rightful place in the struggle for national liberation. We remember her immense contribution to the hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on the experiences of women in detention. We remember the courage with which she spoke against the abuse of women not just by the apartheid security forces, but within the ranks of the liberation movement itself. Even in the democratic era, Jessie was relentless in advancing the position of women in all areas of public and private life."

"Comrade Jessie was a faithful, dedicated and fiercely loyal leader of the African National Congress. It is difficult to imagine the ANC without our beloved DSG, and to think that we will never again hear her voice and her laughter carrying down the corridors of Luthuli House." A Comrade to the End!

Hamba Kahle Comrade Jasmin Jessie Duarte!



ANC President, Cyril Ramaphosa attending the Special Official Funeral Service for the late ANC Deputy Secretary-General Ms Jessie Duarte at the West Park Cemetery in Johannesburg



ANC Treasurer-General, Paul Mashatile handing over the ANC flag to the family of Jessie Duarte



ANC President, Cyril Ramaphosa delivered a Eulogy at the Special Official Funeral Service of the late Ambassador Jessie Duarte on the 17th July 2022

Women in the health and care sector earn **24 percent less** than men

The most comprehensive global analysis of gender pay inequalities in the health and care sector finds that women face a larger gender pay gap than other economic sectors.

Women in the health and care sector face a larger gender pay gap than in other economic sectors, earning on average of 24 per cent less than peers who are men, according to a new joint report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The report, the world's most comprehensive analysis on gender pay inequities in health, finds a raw gender pay gap of approximately 20 percentage points, which jumps to 24 percentage points when accounting for factors such as age, education and working time. This highlights that women are underpaid for their labour market attributes when compared to men.

Much of the wage gap is unexplained, perhaps due to discrimination towards women – who account for 67 per cent of health and care workers worldwide. The report also finds that wages in the health and care sector tend to be lower overall, when compared with other economic sectors. This is consistent with the finding that wages are often lower in economic sectors where women are predominant.

The gender pay gap in the health and care sector: A global analysis in the time of COVID-19 finds that, even

with the COVID-19 pandemic and the crucial role played by health and care workers, there were only marginal improvements in pay equality between 2019 and 2020.

It also finds a wide variation in gender pay gaps in different countries, suggesting that pay gaps in the sector are not inevitable and that more can be done to close these gaps. Within countries, gender pay gaps tend to be wider in higher pay categories, where men are over-represented. Women are over-represented in the lower pay categories.

Mothers working in the health and care sector appear to suffer additional penalties. During a woman's reproductive years, employment and gender pay gaps in the sector significantly increase. These gaps then persist throughout the rest of a woman's working life. The report observes that a more equitable sharing of family duties between men and women could, in many instances, lead to women making different occupational choices.

The analysis also looks at the factors that are driving the sector's gender pay gaps. Differences in age, education, working time and the difference in the participation of men and women in the public or private sectors only address part of the problem. The reasons why women are paid less than men with similar labour market profiles in the health and care sector across the world remains, to a large extent, unexplained by labour market factors, the report

says.

"We cannot have better-quality health and care services without better and fairer working conditions, including fairer wages, for health and care workers, the majority of whom are women. The time has arrived for decisive policy action, including the necessary policy dialogue between institutions."

Manuela Tomei, Director of the Conditions of Work and Equality Department, ILO

"The health and care sector has endured low pay in general, stubbornly large gender pay gaps, and very demanding working conditions. The COVID-19 pandemic clearly exposed this situation while also demonstrating how vital the sector and its workers are in keeping families, societies and economies going," said Manuela Tomei, Director of the Conditions of Work and Equality Department at the International Labour Organization. "There will be no inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery without a stronger health and care sector. We cannot have better-quality health and care services without better and fairer working conditions, including fairer wages, for health and care workers, the majority of whom are women. The

time has arrived for decisive policy action, including the necessary policy dialogue between institutions. We hope this detailed and authoritative report will help stimulate the dialogue and action needed to create this."

"Women comprise the majority of workers in the health and care sector, yet in far too many countries systemic biases are resulting in pernicious pay penalties against them. The evidence and analysis in this ground-breaking report must inform governments, employers and workers to take effective action."

Jim Campbell, WHO Director of Health Workforce

"Women comprise the majority of workers in the health and care sector, yet in far too many countries systemic biases are resulting in pernicious pay penalties against them," said Jim Campbell, WHO Director of Health Workforce. "The evidence and analysis in this ground-breaking report must inform governments, employers and workers to take effective action. Encouragingly, the success stories in several countries show the way; including wage increases and political commitment to pay equity."



We cannot have better-quality health and care services without better and fairer working conditions, including fairer wages said ILO



History as Banyana Banyana clinch their first ever WAFCON Trophy in Morocco



Celebratory Atmosphere after the Total Energies Medal presentation in the pitch

Congratulations to African Women Champions,

Banyana Banyana for winning Women's Africa Cup of Nations 2022

Banyana Banyana clinched the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) for the first time at the Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium against the hosting nation, Morocco in the final, with a 2-1 win.

It took many South Africans nine minutes as extra minutes after the goalless first half to hold their breath until the Salima Rhadia Mukansanga who is an international football referee from Rwanda, blew the final whistle in the second half for Banyana Banyana to be declared winners.

After a goalless first half, Hildah Magaia put Banyana Banyana in the

lead when she beat Morocco goalkeeper Khadija Er-Rmichi with a clinical finish in the 63rd minute following some good work on the left by hard running Jermaine Seoposenwe.

Hildah Magaia was not done and completed her brace with a tap-in in the 71st minute, again Seoposenwe being the main architect of the goal. But Morocco fought back and pulled a goal back through Rosella Ayane in the 80th minute but it was a question of too little too late. Moroccans put pressure, with a threat posed with their aerial strength but Banyana Banyana were equal to the task.

Banyana Banyana Andile Dlamini walked away with the Goalkeeper of the Tournament award at a ceremony held on the pitch.

'Banyana Banyana were named as the women's National Team of the Year', said Confederation of African Football president Patrice Motsepe.

Desiree Ellis, who is the best coach in Africa showed off her first African Women Championship gold medal!

Ellis lost three Total Energies WAFCON finals, one as a player, and two as a manager.

Banyana Banyana Coach Desiree Ellis said 'I never had any doubt about winning

this final. The confidence the players showed, nobody and nothing could stop them this evening.'

COSATU National Gender Conference resolved to campaign for Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value. And the Banyana Banyana case versus Bafana Bafana has got popular support across society to be treated with the same glove as the senior men's team. Meanwhile, the Moroccan skipper Ghizlane Chebbak was named the Total Energies Woman of the Competition by CAF.

Congratulations Banyana Banyana!



(Left to right) Meghan and Prince Harry, the Duchess and Duke of Sussex; Minister Mondli Gungubele in the Presidency of South Africa; Ambassador Maria Theofilis of Greece; Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed; General Assembly President Abdulla Shahid; Foreign Minister Morissanda Kouyaté of Guinea; and Mayor Eric Adams of New York City

UN Photo/Mark Garten

UN commemorates Nelson Mandela's **'fight for a better world'**

Un Affairs
UN Member States gathered in the General Assembly Hall on Monday to observe Nelson Mandela International Day, a celebration for everyone to take action and inspire change in their communities.

The first democratically-elected President of South Africa, and the country's first Black leader, died in December 2013 at age 95. The annual commemoration on 18 July, his birthday, recognizes his contribution to the culture of peace and freedom. Mr. Mandela – affectionately known as “Madiba”, his Xhosa clan name - fought against the racist apartheid system in his homeland, and for equality and freedom for all people.

Fight for better world

Abdulla Shahid, President of the UN General Assembly, recalled that he also advocated for democracy, gender equality, the rights of children and young people, and for protecting the environment.

“Madiba’s fight against apartheid, was in fact a fight for a better world, in which the freedom, justice and dignity of all were respected. He called for peace, social justice, equality and human understanding throughout his life,” he said.

Prince Harry: Celebrate Mandela’s legacy every day

Delivering the keynote address, Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex, said the life and legacy of Mr. Mandela must be celebrated every day, particularly as younger generations may not be familiar with his leadership. “Let’s talk with our children about what he stood for. Let’s seek out what we have in common, empower all people to reclaim our democracies, and harness the light of Mandela’s memory to illuminate the way forward,” he said. OPrince Harry

attended the ceremony alongside his wife, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex. He shared that he treasures a photo of his late mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, and Mr. Mandela, which was given to him by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the anti-apartheid leader who died in December. In it, Mr. Mandela is beaming, despite having endured “the very worst of humanity, vicious racism and state-sponsored brutality”, and spending 27 years in prison.

Inspiration amidst uncertainty

Prince Harry said Mr. Mandela was still able to see the goodness in humanity, not because he was blind to the ugliness and injustices of the world, but because he knew we could overcome them.

“In our own time, a time of global uncertainty and division, when it’s all too easy to look around and feel anger or despair, I’ve been inspired to go back to Mandela’s writings for insight into how this could be - how he could experience so much darkness and always manage to find the light,” he said.

Prince Harry listed some of the current global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, the weaponization of lies and disinformation, and the “horrific” war in Ukraine, stating that “we are witnessing a global assault on democracy and freedom – the cause of Mandela’s life.” Citing the non-profit Freedom House, he said the world has grown less free for more than a decade and a half, and the consequences are being felt most deeply in Africa. The pandemic, the war, and inflation have left the continent mired in a fuel and food crisis, and a time when the Horn of Africa is enduring its longest drought in nearly half a century.

Finding meaning in the struggle

Describing this as a “pivotal moment”, where multiple converging crises have generated endless injustices, people everywhere thus have a choice to make. “We can grow apathetic, succumb to anger, or yield to despair, surrendering to the gravity of what we’re up against. Or we can do what Mandela did, every single day inside that 7-by-9-foot prison cell on Robben Island - and every day outside of it, too,” said Prince Harry.

“We can find meaning and purpose in the struggle. We can wear our principles as armour. Heed the advice Mandela once gave his son, to ‘never give up the battle even in the darkest hour.’ And find hope where we have the courage to seek it.”

Building on progress

Prince Harry also spoke about his special relationship with Africa, saying he has always found hope there. “In fact, for most of my life, it has been my lifeline, a place where I have found peace and healing time and time again,” he said. “It’s where I’ve felt closest to my mother and sought solace after she died, and where I knew I had found a soulmate in my wife.”

He said much of his work is based on the continent “because, despite continued hardship, there are people across Africa who embody Mandela’s spirit and ideals – building on the progress he helped make possible.”

Mandela Prize laureates

At the ceremony, a Greek philanthropist who fights to end childhood cancer, and a Guinean senior official working to stamp out violence against women and girls in Africa, were honoured for their service to humanity. Marianna Vardinoyannis and Dr. Morissanda Kouyaté are the recipients of

the 2020 United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize. The Prize is awarded every five years to one man and one woman, but presentation was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Vardinoyannis is founder and president of an eponymous foundation dedicated to children, and the ELPIDA Friends’ Association of Children with cancer. She has been a Goodwill Ambassador of the UN education and cultural organization, UNESCO, since 1999. Dr. Kouyaté, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea, is Executive Director of the Inter-African Committee on Harmful Traditional Practices (IAC). He is a leading figure in efforts on ending violence against women, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Lessons from Mandela

UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed presented the Prize to the honourees. Ms. Vardinoyannis took part in the ceremony virtually, and Greece’s Ambassador to the UN, Maria Theofilis, accepted the award on her behalf.

Ms. Mohammed also delivered remarks on behalf of the UN Secretary-General who, in his message for the International Day, encouraged people to honour Mr. Mandela’s legacy by speaking out against hate and standing up for human rights. Speaking in her own capacity, Ms. Mohammed said Mr. Mandela has served as an inspiration ever since she was young and finding her path. “I have taken to heart his profound lesson that we all have the ability – and responsibility – to take action. That there is no ‘us’ and ‘them’. We are in this together, carrying a shared responsibility to preserve our common home and stand in solidarity with one another,” she said.

Mandela Day

Activities
from COSATU
and affiliated
trade unions



COSATU Western Cape collaborated on the International Mandela Day with Sanlam, Old Mutual South Africa and Cape Town Opera at the Leonard Cheshire Disability Centre in Western Cape



SACTWU participates in #MandelaMonth activities by donating school shoes at Lockhart Secondary School in partnership with Bata



The POPCRU Gauteng Province held a successful Gender program organized by the Ekurhuleni North, East and Far East Locals



COSATU Former Deputy President, Cornelia Connie September completes a Thesis

on “Public Funding of the College Sector: A Social-Return-On-Investment in Higher Education” and becomes Dr. September

CO S A T U Shopsteward Magazine interview with the first former Deputy President of the federation, Comrade Cornelia 'Connie' September, now Doctor September, a trade unionist from the Western Cape and later was deployed to become a Member of Parliament as an ANC member. Comrade September is well-known as the Chairperson of the popular “September Commission” that looked at the “Future of the

Labour movement in a post-apartheid South Africa”, within COSATU.

She has served in various roles within Parliamentary Portfolio Committees and also served as the Minister of Human Settlement in the Republic of South Africa.

COSATU Shopsteward Magazine: Greetings Comrade Connie September. Congratulations on your recent graduation as Dr. Connie September. Tell us

what inspired you to prioritize self-cultivation in your business schedule?

Dr. Connie September: I maintained a strong believe that education can play a vital role to change society, overcome poverty and that life-long learning is an important concept to realise. I was always inspired by my mother who loved reading even in her older years in life.

COSATU Shopsteward Magazine: Kindly make an

elaboration of the content of your thesis and what rationale you wanted to drive home about your exposition?

Dr. Connie September: My thesis importantly asked if the South African government continues to earmark education as the highest budget item, as it relates to the public colleges, what are the social-return-on-investment a developmental state derive from the continuation of an increase in funding the public colleges.

As a developmental state South Africa's policies and budget allocation places a high premium on the developmental objectives of the public colleges in pursuit of requisite skills required for the labor market, social value as an outcome to all stakeholders of the TVET colleges Business, labour, government, students).

The research echoed COSATU's call way back in 1994 and beyond that the state must play a strong

interventionist role, use scarce financial resources selectively and improve economic performance by enhancing vocational education and training. Despite the increase in funding towards the public colleges, there appeared to be limited demonstrable return-on-investment to the government and the broader society.

The research therefore wanted to know what the rationale of a developmental state is

strengthen the campaign on skills revolution?

Dr. Connie September: My advice to COSATU firstly is to ensure that lifelong learning must encompass the shop floor and workplaces in an accessible manner for workers. Worker representatives on the boards of SETA's must be equipped to turn sector education training programmes to the benefit of young workers but also to those workers that wish to improve their skills

This means that the financial contribution to the public colleges is a constitutional obligation. Students have an expectation that public colleges must bring change not only to individuals through certification, but social change in communities.

Thus a policy justification must be shown in the true meaning of being implementable, a developmental purpose. South Africa has not reached a mature developmental status as a country but is still aspiring. The phenomenon of a gap exist between theoretical economic benefits of planning and its practical results which are large.

A number of policies have been produced, but a mismatch exist between funding and policy, overcoming the gap between theory and credible results.

Thus instead of planning policies unwittingly contributing to a perpetuation of negative outcomes in their implementation such as an increase in unemployment, policies should not compete or be in conflict with each other; policies must overcome being vague in design on specific policy achievements in its stated objectives; the gap must be closed between plan formulation and implementation.

As recognition of the socio-economic value of a developmental plan be done, a developmental state must address institutional weakness of separation of planning and day to day decision making with political will to close the gap.

COSATU Shopsteward Magazine: Do you think given the high retrenchment levels experienced in various sectors and the high unemployment rate exposed by STATS SA, how can South Africa address some of the structural deficit in the labour market?

And are we addressing the low levels of enrolment at TVET sector and how we can do more to ensure the institutions of higher education prepares the youth for the labour markets?

Dr. Connie September: My research outcome is that the qualitative spend on the TVET sector finances are misaligned with their developmental objectives. The plight of young people in the NEETS has been reliant on an unfunded budget and therefore not responsive to the needs of young people.

The budget of the TVET sector appear to address the student enrollment, mainly to the neglect of other developmental objectives of addressing demand and supply of skills to the labour market.

An outdated curriculum does not provide students with the skills that are receptive to the labour market. The effectiveness of training and retraining is depended on a job available upon exiting the education system.

My findings speak to a desire to fund an education system that requires a qualitative outcome with agility (flexible, lifelong learning, critical thinking and creative problem solving) and efficiency (preparing students for modern skills and contribute to their local communities).

The TVET sector is challenged to respond to an ever-changing economy. It must go beyond the numbers. Enrollments to the public college sector is reliant to achieve a social value, agile methods that can enhance a qualitative benefit which can improve attitudes towards the TVET sector.

COSATU Shopsteward Magazine: Have we fully taken advantage of the SETAs to unleash mass education for the unemployed youth, to skill them and also reskill those in the labour markets to find alternative jobs?

Dr. Connie September: As stated earlier, COSATU has to do more introspection of their participation on SETA boards that lends itself towards a social outcome. This does not mean that SETA's are not relevant anymore.

COSATU Shopsteward Magazine: You emerged

out of candid community struggles in which the federation worked closely with progressive community-based organizations and the UDF comes into mind. What lessons may we learn working within the community as a trade union movement and do you think we may take a cue from such movements before the 1994 democratic dispensation?

Dr. Connie September: COSATU I believe has always seen itself from not separating the labour movement from community struggles, hence its resolve to section 77 for socio-economic rights. I would suggest that the federation must forged closer links with the student movement as they are after all your children and grandchildren.

COSATU Shopsteward Magazine: How would you want communities to be restructured to have all citizens enjoying the democratic gains since the attainment of liberation?

Dr. Connie September: South Africa require the unity of all workers, one country, and one federation.

COSATU Shopsteward Magazine: As South Africa is on a journey towards a Developmental State, what more needs to be done to humanize our masses to become a better state?

Dr. Connie September: Now more than ever a review of the September Commission remains relevant. A number of the scenarios became true and therefore what would remain of workers' rights in a weakened labor movement, unemployment rising, hunger and poverty reigning.

COSATU Shopsteward Magazine: President Connie thanks for all the insights towards a capable and Developmental State and best wishes!

Dr. Connie September: Thanks a lot for the opportunity to interact with the working class community.■



Dr Connie Cornelia September graduating in 2022

of devoting a considerable increase in the public college sector budget, are there policies norms and standards in place to analyse a demonstration of SROI, dimensions for the development of a desirable SROI framework that can measure SROI in the public college sector in South Africa?

The research propose a framework to undertake a measurement of SROI as well as weaved in a TIPS (Technology, Innovation, People and Systems Thinking) framework to manage and enhance innovation within in funding and policies.

COSATU Shopsteward Magazine: What advice would you share with young workers on the importance of worker education and how to

continuously.

The unemployed must remain included in these programmes. The campaign on a skills revolution requires a more hands on approach by all sectors and COSATU in particular to provide skills relevant for the labour market.

COSATU Shopsteward Magazine: From your thesis, what are the gains on education landscape legislation and provision which must be strengthened and how to close of the gaps on policy implementation and/or full utilization of the opportunities out there?

Dr. Connie September: The outcome of my research speaks of "Judge technical and vocational training policy in the realm of the real life"

SAEPU marches to the National Department of Health pertaining EMS issues



'We demand payment of excess working hours', said EMS workers at Tshwane

The South African Emergency Personnel's Union (SAEPU) embarked on a national march on the 17th June 2022 to hand over memorandum of demands of workers in the Emergency services sector at the National Department of Health located around the Military

hospital in Thaba Tshwane.

Leading the march, SAEPU General Secretary, Ishmael Makgati said 'Emergency Services personnel in South Africa are seemingly undermined by the employer as the Minister has received their demands but has not responded over a long period'.

'Emergency services personnel has been concerned with safety of staff during call-up to emergency scenes. We have seen mugged, robbed their cellphones and money in various communities. Many are

attacked during responses involving gangster's fights and become a buffer zone for the fighting groupings. This must be stopped by law enforcement agencies', said Makgati.

'We demand payment of danger allowance for our members', reiterated Makgati.

SAEPU has said '98% of ambulances do not have adequate equipments to ensure that lives are saved'.

Other demands were;

- Training and development for Emergency Personnel Services to be equipped to respond to new and different emergency cases relating to floods, mass shootings and other dangerous situations
- Eradication of nepotism, favouritism and sexual harassment at EMS Training

colleges by lecturers

- Payment of excess hours in the execution of emergency services work across all communities
- Eradication of Council fees for unemployed emergency services personnel as many of these individuals are paying exorbitant fees using SASSA grants paid to survive poverty
- Relaxation of swimming as a mandatory requirement for access to emergency services courses as majority of applicants cannot swim from previously disadvantaged communities

Makgati said 'We would give the Department seven working days to respond and failure with, we would escalate the matter to withhold our services until we receive an audience from the Minister of Health, Dr. Joe Phaahla'.

SATAWU celebrates 100th set of trains manufactured locally

The South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU) has joined South Africans to celebrate the 100th set of electrical trains manufactured locally. SATAWU General Secretary Cde Jack Mazibuko said 'We congratulate the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) in partnership with Gibela for manufacturing these beautiful and safe trains.'

'This is indeed a major milestone in the train and transport industry,' Mazibuko elaborated that 'SATAWU also celebrates South Africans for making history. As we were celebrating the 100th set of Isitimela Sabantu in EkuRhuleni today the 4th of July 2022, hundreds of young people revealed that they were taken to different countries like Brazil and India for training and later came back to utilise the experience to build these trains from the stretch. We need more of these skilled workers in the train sector. The South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU) is also pleased with job opportunities created for young people



'Job opportunities are created for young people to build trains locally', said SATAWU

who are eligible workers as they will continue building the trains to be used the whole country. We will continue supporting PRASA in creating job opportunities especially for young black women, in particular.

PRASA is currently rebuilding railway stations throughout the country due to cable theft and vandalism. That led to poor service delivery in the train sector for our people. We now call on our people to work with us in maintaining our infrastructure. It has been very difficult for our members, workers and commuters generally to travel as many routes are currently suspended due to technical faults caused by cable

theft, we call on everyone to protect these new trains so we can be a better country. We also calling upon our law enforcement agencies to decisively deal with the perpetrators who are continuing to steal our infrastructure. We once again congratulate our members, workers, Gibela and PRASA for manufacturing Isitimela Sabantu. We wish to see more trains built and manufactured locally not just in South Africa but in Africa as a continent to boost our economy.'

The Minister of Transport, Hon Fikile Mbalala said 'We marked 100 locally manufactured trains. As we celebrate the 100th train set - we recognize the milestone as a giant leap towards affordable integrated public transport network. This is a massive testament to government's ambitious rail policy plans.' Meanwhile, The South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU) congratulates Airlink on its new partnership with Qatar airlines.

'The two have signed an agreement to operate in South Africa in Gqeberha formerly known as Port Elizabeth,

Hoedspruit in Limpopo, Skukuza Mpumalanga and George in the Western Cape. SATAWU welcomes the partnership as it will boost the country's economy. With Kulula and British Airways being suspended throughout the country, it has been a huge strain for our people who are traveling domestically. This will give our people a choice to travel to their destinations with no difficulties as the flights are currently limited.

SATAWU is of the view that this will also create job opportunities for young eligible workers in our country. The South African unemployment rate has recently decreased by 0.8 % to 34.5%, We then commit ourselves to join Government in fighting the high rate of unemployment that the country is currently battling with. The South African Transport and Allied Workers Union wishes the two airlines a good working and business relationship going forward. We also wish our members well in their roles. We trust that they will serve our people with dignity and respect', reiterated SATAWU.

NUM signed a 1-year wage agreement with ESKOM



Eskom and labour unions reach agreement on wage talks at Cedarwoods, Sandton

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has signed a one-year wage agreement on behalf of its members at Eskom. The wage agreement makes provision for a 7% wage increase for workers across the board.

William Mabapa, NUM General Secretary said 'The NUM wishes to express its sincere gratitude to its members at Eskom for the manner in which they behaved during the negotiation period up until they gave us a mandate to sign the agreement'.

The Electricity Supply Commission [Eskom] said 'It is pleased to confirm that the wage agreement has been signed at the Collective Bargaining Forum between Eskom and the three recognized labour unions- NUM, NUMSA and Solidarity. The agreement entails an increase of 7% for bargaining forum employees and an increase of R400 on the housing allowance.'

'Following this agreement, NUM, NUMSA and Solidarity have urged their members to return to work immediately. Eskom also wishes to urge all employees to return to their workstations to relieve the pressure on the system and to deliver the service the people of South Africa expect from Eskom, and to assist in restoring generation performance negatively impacted.'

- **Scope and Duration**
The agreement shall apply from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
- **Salaries**
The salary increase will be 7% across the board
- **Condition of service**
Eskom agrees to reinstate the changes to conditions of service which existed as at 30 June 2021 with effect from 01 July 2022

- **Housing allowance**
The housing allowance will increase by R400 for the period of 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
- **2021 Dispute of CCMA on Condition of Services**
It is proposed that the dispute dealing with conditions of service be withdrawn and only deal with the dispute on salary increase, unilateral implementation and refusal to bargain.
- **Disciplinary Procedure, Grievance Procedure and Recognition Agreement**
A task team will be established consisting of at least three persons from each party. The task team will report back to the Collective Bargaining Forum within three months.

SACTWU settles for a 7% wage increase for woven cotton textile workers

The COSATU-affiliated Southern African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (SACTWU) has settled its 2022/2024 wage negotiations in the Woven Cotton textile sub-sector. Andre Kriel, SACTWU General Secretary articulated that 'This new 2-year collective agreement was successfully concluded under the auspices of the National Textile Bargaining Council (NTBC), with employers represented by the South African Cotton & Textile Processing Employers' Association (SACTPEA).'

Kriel said 'This collective agreement is effective from 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2024. Year 1 of this new 2-year collective

agreement covers the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Year 2 covers the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.'

For Year 1, our members in the Woven Cotton textile sub-sector will receive a 7% wage increase. For Year 2, wage increases will be pegged at the same rand value as that which are applicable for this year. The total package increase is actually worth more than 7%. This is because the following additional substantive improvements in terms and conditions of employment have also been agreed to, in addition to the wage increases:

- **Annual bonus:**
With effect from this year, the annual

bonus payment will increase from 3 weeks' wages to 3.5 weeks' wages for workers with between 1 years' and 3 years' service, and to 4 weeks' wages for those workers with more than 3 years' service.

Workers with less than 1 year's service will receive a pro-rated annual bonus of 2 weeks.

The annual bonus is compulsory, and employers are required to pay it out before the end of December.

- **Family Responsibility Leave:**
Employees will be provided with options for better Family Responsibility Leave provisions, to cover more family circumstances in addition to the birth

of a child.

Regarding COVID-19, it was agreed to make arrangements that enable employees to be vaccinated, on a voluntary basis. The signature processes for this new collective agreement was completed on Wednesday this week.

The settlement was achieved after 4 negotiation rounds, which commenced on 25 April this year, and concluded on 22 June 2022. The now signed new collective agreement will be submitted to the Minister of Employment and Labour, with a request for its gazettal and extension to non-party employers. 'This collective agreement will benefit approximately 6 000 Woven Cotton textile workers, nationally', said SACTWU.

AFADWU Members at In2foods (Spring Valley) in Bapsfontein demands a living wage

Members affiliated to the newly admitted farming sector trade union, Agricultural Food and Allied Democratic Workers' Union at the In2foods at Spring Valley around Bapsfontein in Gauteng have been on a strike after a series of engagement

with the employer on substantive issues affecting employee's welfare. 'The Parties deadlocked over wage increases and the matter was referred to the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration [CCMA] for an appropriate relief', said AFADWU.

'The CCMA issued a certificate of a

strike, with the employer exercise her right to a lock-out. The employer was served with a strike notice on the 30th May 2022'. 'Workers are demanding, amongst others, Night Shift Allowance, Housing Allowance, Medical Aid, Working Equipment, Personal Protective Equipment during working hours, Sick

Leave, Family Responsibility Leave and Recognition of Years of Service'.

Meanwhile, the Agricultural Food and Allied Democratic Workers' Union has continued to prioritise participating in worker education campaigns to empower its members to organize and manage the trade union better in their sector.

Mavis, me and the energy crisis

CONUNDRUM IN SA

by Gugu Ndima

I anxiously peak out the window to see if Mavis has arrived. A jovial, warm-hearted optimist, Mavis sells scones and amagwinya close to the bus stop I use. Her face beams a smile of relief, as she sees me walk towards her. I equally beam, for there's a tacit mutual sense of comfort that we are not alone. It's much-needed comfort when darkness looms in our area in the early hours of the morning, either due to Eskom loadshedding or cable theft that prolongs the loadshedding. It's school holidays, its winter and the dim orange light offered by streetlights on the main road is nowhere in sight.

During school holidays there is less traffic and less people on the road, which makes Mavis and I both potential targets for criminal opportunism.

As a cost saving mechanism in these turbulent economic times, I take the No. 436 bus to work for convenience. It arrives between 06h35 and 6h40 and drops me off right in front of the office just before 8h00. It's a safer public transport option for me. In winter, the streetlights aid people like myself and Mavis who must leave home early to go to work.

Loadshedding, however augments fear and makes life difficult. I try to leave the house five minutes earlier, just as she arrives, so that she doesn't feel alone. Our conversations are dominated by the rising cost of living, as we are both single moms. In that ten-minute interval, we become our guardian angels. The situation is far dire for Mavis, for she walks 8km to get to her selling spot. She can take a taxi, but she says that takes away from her already shallow pockets. She uses the main road, as passing cars and taxis give her a sense safety that if anything were to happen or get attacked, someone would notice. Without the streetlights during loadshedding, the journey is terrifying.

She then must leave the house slightly

later, which in turn makes her lose the business of earlier customers such as petrol attendants and security guards going to work in the vicinity. She needs this business more during this period as schools (her main customer base) have closed. Mavis' small business helps her, and her family survive since she lost her job in the retail sector during the covid lockdown. Her budget constraints determine how her business will perform daily.

She casually tells me about how the cooking oil price's dramatic increase has affected her profit and that loadshedding now requires her to get a one plate gas stove which requires a gas bottle, this after having bought electricity for the month. Sadly, her kind of business makes it to the PR section of the State of the Nation address but will never qualify to get any kind of relief or funding, as the 'Fictious COVID' pandemic has proven.

Businesses such as those of Mavis despite billions being allocated for any assistance, did not even get a cent. Businesses such as those owned by Mavis, survive on the periphery because of systematized red tape.

I'm reminded of one theatrical story about a sudden ice-cream venture miraculously created by the SASSA R350 relief grant. She complains about how SASSA has declined her application for the R350 relief grant because for some odd reason, the system says she receives UIF she has never received. 'Hayi MaNdima but I'm unemployed and this R350 can help my business. What's R350 to government if they allow people to just steal millions for masks and sanitizers! She exclaims with evident frustration. We share mutual banter on the matter. I also don't understand government at the moment.

I do not understand anything happening in SA as it stands. I am just as despondent as her about politics

and politicians. The energy conundrum affects everyone, but the implications for people like Mavis who are trying to survive the pitfalls of the second economy, rarely get public space.

Millions of men and women who by circumstances find themselves in the class of the destitute, betrayed and despondent, are forced to survive and adopt with little or no aid from government. Those who relied on trains pre the "infrastructure smash and grab sabotage" period during lockdown, have had to find other modes of transport.

Those with no financial means to do so, confront the danger of walking abnormal distances, usually during abnormal hours of the day, to earn exploitative wages that don't justify being called a living wage.

The thrashing realities of capitalism have been exacerbated by the energy conundrum, tragically with no end in sight. SA's leadership, has proven that it has no strategic foresight to deal with any form of crisis (COVID 19 included). Yet it has further accepted further debt for a "fictious COVID 19 pandemic" emergency, which has had far dire socio-economic consequences than the propagated health ones. A Mavis at this point, and millions of many women and men like her, would probably appreciate a financial or resource injection such as a gas stove (as they do not come cheap) than further unnecessary campaigns to vaccinate. Unfortunately, even if government created such a relief, it's been proven that those intended to benefit, don't even get close to the crumbs of such funds.

With the arguably "leader of society" (bestowed the responsibility to lead government), wrangled in inward factional and state capture battles towards the national conference, it has become a luxury to see any concrete political response to deal with economic issues, let alone a sound

coherent statement about anything in SA. Further to that, the State President is preoccupied with frantic attempts to conjure a "Bellpottinger" PR counter offensive to maneuver around his own "million dollar-farmyard" scandal. It does not further assist that he has no reign over his fragmented cabinet.

Where does this leave millions of South Africans displaced by the current obverse economic trajectory. The now defunct tri-partite alliance partners have forgotten the people it once served. Mavis and millions of workers futures' hang in the balance because of their "loud" silence, as the ANC runs amok with the fragile future of South Africa. It's a dog-eat-dog world in the beloved South Africa, which once promised a future of a National Democratic Society and a 'better life for all'.

I tell Mavis about my weekend in Katlehong and how roads have been closed by residents because of their frustrations with electricity. 'Is that Operation Dudula?' she enquires. I explain that it isn't, but we agree that the Soweto based movement is occupying space across the country. This leads to a brief analysis about 2024 elections. We both sigh from helplessness. The eternal optimist in her gathers the strength to say, "It will get better someday". As my bus stops, I bid Mavis goodbye. Burdened with my own survival realities, I join my commuters heading for industrial parks and factories that have not yet shut down due to the energy conundrum.

They too have survived the systemic booby traps and made it into the bus in the wee hours of the morning. I leave Mavis to try and sell her stock to the workers making way to work, before 08h00.

Written by Gugu Ndima, A South African patriot @Mandima_Writer (Twitter)



Nightmare FACED

by youth demands drastic action

by Nonzuzo Dlamini

The Youth Day commemorations have come and gone but discussions about the plight of youth in this country continue. When the youth of 1976 took to the streets, they turned about an anti-apartheid struggle that was becoming redundant and galvanized the nation and the world to infuse urgency in pushing for the end of apartheid. About 46 years after the youth of 1976 years made the ultimate sacrifice, the young people of South Africa are living in the most unequal country in the world according to the World Bank.

Twenty-eight years after the democratic breakthrough, the young people of this country have not reaped the fruits of democracy but are living in a socio-economic nightmare. The youth unemployment rate remains at a staggering 65.5%. The statement by the government that it does not create jobs will have a bitter taste in

the mouths of many unemployed South Africans.

It is clear now that the generous tax breaks and employment subsidies like the Employment Tax Incentive and the Youth Employment Scheme Programme subsidy given to the private sector are not working.

To solve this socio-economic nightmare, the government must lead the way by requiring all its institutions to submit internship plans; each must have a quota per year, at minimum wage level. Some of the government programmes like the Presidential Employment Programme and internship programmes, which have managed to give relief to unemployed young people, need to be expanded, pay young people a living wage and be provided across all layers of the state.

There is also an urgent need to reform our education system which has resulted

in many young people, in particular from historically disadvantaged communities, falling through the cracks. No modern economy can thrive if its young people lack literacy and mathematical skills. Our education system should be emancipatory, gender balanced and feature African philosophies.

There is a need to move away from a purely academic focus on education, to promote multiple pathways based on individual talents and interests.

With the Fourth Industrial Revolution upon us, there is a need to ensure that the free education system in place is sponsoring young people to acquire skills that will allow them to be competitive.

Without urgent and targeted action today to manage the near-term transition and build a workforce with feature-proof skills, unemployment and inequality are likely to continue.

Some interventions to deal with demotivated youth include providing unemployed youth with work seeker's grants to cover their transportation and other costs involved in the job application and screening process.

Job application portals need to be exempted from data costs to allow free access to applicants. Since young people are the ones greatly affected by unemployment, it a travesty that they continue to be underrepresented in decision-making.

If nothing drastic is done to address youth unemployment, the July riots in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng will be a daily occurrence and the rate of crime will turn this country into a failed state.

Dlamini is the COSATU Communications Officer at the headquarters in Braamfontein



ANC delegation at the 15th SACP National Congress at Boksburg

FIGHTING PATRIARCHY AS PART OF THE NDR

and building socialism To achieve
genuinely revolutionary emancipation of
women, **writes Pat Horn, our Party must
develop and – in a broad popular front –
drive a multi-pronged programme**

The SACP has to be serious about the emancipation of women and the feminist struggle of fighting patriarchy. This means looking beyond the women's organisations the SACP has historically relied on, which may or may not selfidentify as feminist in the sense of fighting patriarchy.

And going further, recognising the independent emerging mass feminist self-organisation led by young women and LBGTI+ activists with their strong focus on intersectionality, and engaging with such organisations and movements as part of a left popular front of working class and progressive forces.

This would be in line with the commitment made at the 14th SACP National Congress in 2017, and it is up for debate in a discussion paper for the 15th SACP National Congress.

The discussion paper argues that the revolutionary emancipation of women requires the following: I Dismantling of patriarchy;

- Transformation of the marginal role of women in the occupational division of labour to a central one; and
 - Reformulation of the national question in South Africa to revamp our national liberation struggle into a gendered struggle for a transformed South Africa.
- What is to be done – in 2022 and going forward?
Transform the gender division of labour throughout the economy (including the informal economy). The language of radical economic transformation for women workers, needs to change to socialist feminist economic transformation or structural economic and broader social transformation and development based on gender equality and redress.
For a thorough-going socialist feminist economic transformation of the productive labour market, the paper stresses the need to elevate

economic struggles for women in the economy, such as:

- Fight for the rights of women hawkers in the CBDs, bus and taxi ranks, for protection and decent storage and shelter with guaranteed rights to trade; Fight for women to get employment in sectors that are historically regarded as male domains such as transport and logistics, construction and mining;
- Drive the implementation of the social and solidarity economy policy which is directed at empowering cooperatives, community trusts, non-profit organisations, stokvels and other related survivalist economic activities to grow towards formal economy;
- Re-establish the Dora Tamana Cooperative Centre to institutionalise and train cooperatives, especially in rural communities for economic social ownerships from agricultural activities to small scale agri-processing producing value added foods, which form part of the emerging rural food systems detached from huge bourgeois retailers – and some of them are producers for school feeding schemes;
- Develop leadership of working class women to be drivers of the social and solidarity economy, growing stokvels and cooperatives into investments;
- Develop leadership of working class women to be at the forefront of new economic transitions from fossil fuels to green economy, and 4th Industrial Revolution;
- Re-orientating and aligning the national skills strategy to be more demand led and responsive to the changing nature of work, including prioritising the upskilling of women and girls with due regard to reversing the deterioration of the gender division of labour while growing the digital economy, recognising and accommodating emerging platform work;
- Provide learners and workers with

tools and training to be able to learn and work online, with a transformative focus on youth, women and persons with disabilities;

- Promote and campaign for the provision of free Wifi in all municipalities, including townships and rural areas. Strategy and tactics for the SA road to socialism – gender mainstreaming
- Build meaningful black working women's leadership in all economic sectors (both productive and reproductive) in proportion of women working in each sector Strengthen the role of women workers in all levels of new emerging forms of work in the 4th Industrial Revolution (platform economy, gig economy).
- Develop a socialist policy on sex work in consultation with organised sex workers in South Africa and internationally followed by policy conversations at all levels of the organisations to build some socialist understanding and consensus on this work sector.

Eliminating violence against women
The 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of violence against women (Undevaw) recognised “that opportunities for women to achieve legal, social, political and economic equality in society are limited ... by continuing and endemic violence”. Structural and systemic gender-based violence (GBV) has to be addressed to advance women's and people's rights – in the economy, in society, in politics, in the judiciary and in the world of work.

International Labour Organisation Convention 190 for the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work, described as the first international instrument to comprehensively deal with the protection of all workers against violence and harassment – ensures that “the right of everyone to a world

of work free from violence and harassment” is established as a new labour right that can be drawn on to protect workers around the globe, including workers in the informal economy and new forms of work such as platform work and the gig economy. The definition of “the workplace” goes beyond traditional formal workplaces, making specific mention of public space, where street vendors, waste pickers, and taxi drivers work.

The convention goes even further and mentions measures to support workers who are survivors of domestic violence.

The discussion paper concludes by proposing the following way forward in fighting patriarchy:

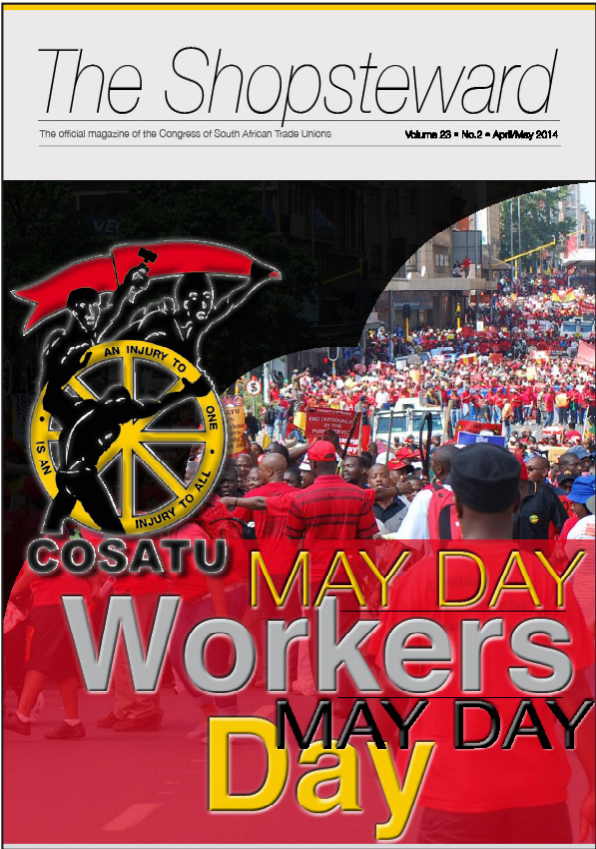
- Upscale the fight against patriarchy in our struggles for the socialism we want;
- Upscale our struggles for socialist feminist economic transformation: — Analyse the changing world of work and its impact on the gender division of labour; — Build working-class women's leadership in the productive sectors of the economy; — Strengthen the recognition, counting and mainstreaming in the reproductive sectors; and — Build a strong social & solidarity economy led by working class women;
- Engage with the independent emerging mass feminist self-organisations led by young women and LBGTI+ activists with strong focus on intersectionality – as part of the left popular front of working class and progressive forces the SACP has committed to form strategic alliances with; and
- Intensify our struggles for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and GBV.

Cde Horn is an SACP Central Committee member, veteran trade unionist and International Coordinator of Streetnet International

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