



# *The Shopsteward*

The official publication of the Congress of South African Trade Unions

Volume 31.3 • COSATU News Journal • June/July 2023



# **COSATU**

## **NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION**

### **6 JULY 2023**

## Worker Issues

- Nationwide Socio-Economic strike - **p8**
- Employers given fourteen days to respond to worker's demands - **p24**

## The Economy

- Redefining Eskom for a better future? - **p28**
- "Workers are motivated to work on Just Transition because they want to prepare for the future"- Energy Summit Outcomes - **p30**
- The interventions on the Power crisis promising thus far - **p32**
- Mysterious underground gas explosion incident shocked - **p34**
- Illegal mining is fatal in South Africa - **p36**
- The coordinated attack on the road freight sector must be cracked before it collapse the economy - **p37**
- Parliamentary Updates: Proposals for a "two pot" system for pensions - **p39**

## Youth Matters

- We need youth development which is biased towards having young people as active champions of their own development socially and economically - **p43**

## The Alliance

- Energy crisis, water crisis, state of state owned enterprises, coalition governments, integrity commission reports, reconfiguration of Alliance were on the agenda when Alliance Partners engaged in 2023 - **p45**

## Health

- The National Health Insurance [NHI] need not be rushed until we tighten up loose ends - **p48**
- The NHI debate is throwing up misconceptions - **p51**

## Gender Agenda

- COSATU National Gender Structure calls for equal pay for work of equal value in football - **p54**
- COSATU Gender structures extend a hand of help to various communities in South Africa - **p56**

## International

- International Labour Conference adopts new apprenticeship standard, among other key decisions - **p58**
- South African workers march against socio-economic crisis - **p60**
- The 2023 ICN Congress concludes in Canada - **p62**

**EDITOR IN CHIEF:** Solly Phetoe **EDITOR:** Norman Mampane **LAYOUT & DESIGN:** Nthabiseng Moloi

**EDITORIAL BOARD:** Solly Phetoe, Norman Mampane, Nthabiseng Moloi

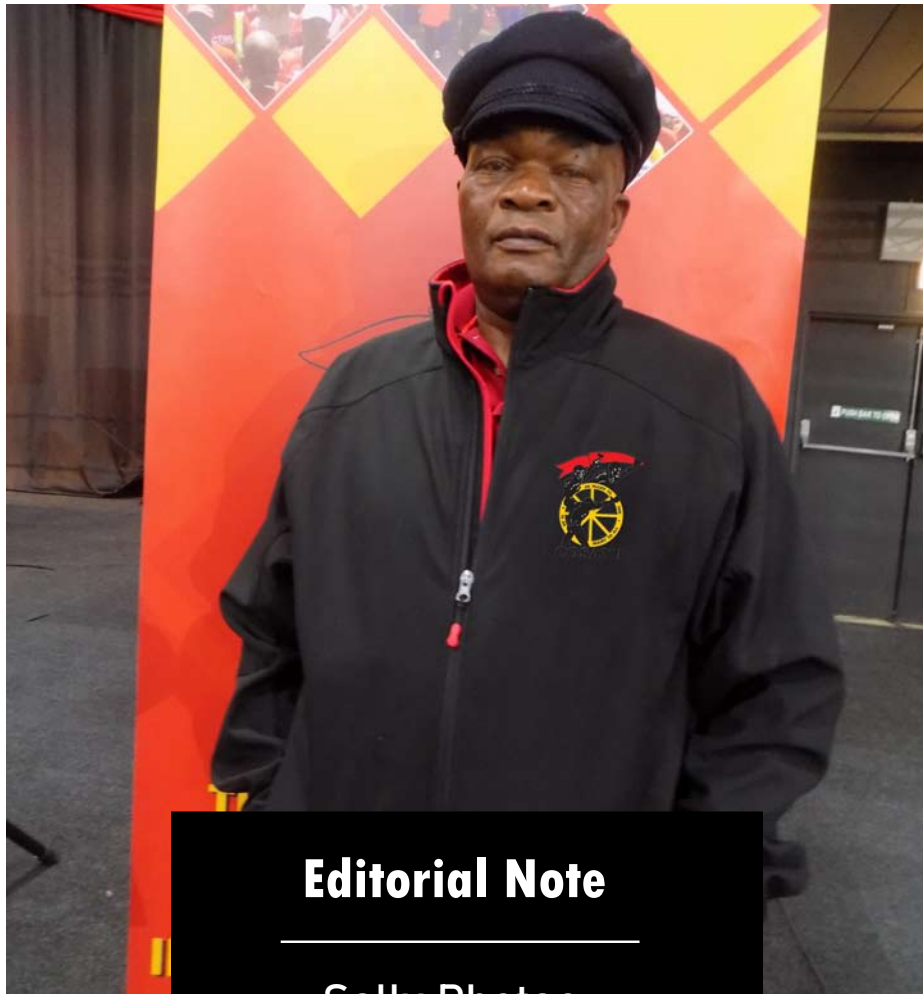
**SUBSCRIPTION & DISTRIBUTION:** Nthabiseng Moloi **PRINTERS:** Shereno Printers

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

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

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

© Copyright 2023. All rights reserved.



## Editorial Note

Solly Phetoe

**t**he leader of the Russian Revolution, Vladimir Lenin, once noted “There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happens.” This remains true for South Africa in these difficult times.

COSATU's members and workers across South Africa continue to remain under siege under many fronts.

We have an unemployment rate of 42.6% and a youth unemployment rate of 60%. We remain the world's most unequal society. The economy is limping under loadshedding, cable theft and criminality crippling our railways, State Owned Enterprises are in varying stages of crisis, 36 municipalities routinely failing to pay their employees, and high levels of crime and corruption.

Whilst workers battle to survive these challenges, we have seen the cost of living rise rapidly due to the war in Ukraine and rise in the international oil price.

The Reserve Bank subsequently raised the repo rate by 475 basis points over the past 18 months making life and the ability of workers to take care of their families even more difficult.

The Federation and its Affiliates continue to fight fires on many fronts, to defend workers' jobs and wages and advance working class struggles on various platforms, from Nedlac to Parliament, from the industrial master plans to bargaining councils, from the Alliance to the public space, and most importantly at the workplace.

Like all struggles, the

trade union movement has won victories and faced setbacks.

Parliament has passed the Employment Equity Amendment and Compensation of Occupational Injuries and Diseases Amendment Acts. These progressive amendment laws have been assented to by President Cyril Ramaphosa and will come into effect from 1 September.

The EE Amendment Act further strengthens our employment equity framework. Companies that do business with the state will now be required to be in compliance with the Employment Equity and the National Minimum Wage Acts. This will be a powerful incentive for companies to embrace good labour practices. The Employment Equity Act now affirms regional demographic diversity. This is critical as the demographics of for example the Western Cape differ significantly from those of Limpopo. It's important our full demographic diversity is reflected in our workplaces.

The Compensation Fund

will now cover the 900 000 domestic workers as well as the right of workers to seek compensation for workplace illnesses that may occur sometime after they have left their work, e.g. asbestos poisoning as well as cover for workers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders, this is important for workers exposed to violence and trauma at the workplace.

On the organisational front, we have seen progress in Affiliates. CEPPWAWU which has been under administration has now successfully held regional congresses and we hope will soon go to its national congress. SACTWU, SATAWU and other unions have signed positive above inflation increases for thousands of workers across their sectors.

COSATU and its Affiliates embarked upon a very successful national day of action on the 6th of July. Workers across all economic sectors responded in their numbers to COSATU's call for workers to stay away from work, join the marches in the major urban areas in all 9 provinces and to hold pickets.

The strike captured the entire nation's attention and shown a bright spotlight on workers' grievances and demands. COSATU will continue to maintain the pressure on government and business to respond and action these proposals from workers.

The Federation has been active working with Affiliates and unions across the continent and in the United States on how the African Growth and Opportunities Act can be strengthened to further support South Africa and Africa's economic growth, industrial development and job creation.

The AGOA Summit is due to be hosted in Johannesburg in November. South Africa will also be hosting the BRICS Summit in August. The BRICS nations represent 31% of the world's economy and 3.2 billion people. It provides a critical anchor of multi-lateral engagement. South Africa with its long history of progressive non-alignment is playing a key role in both BRICS and AGOA.

Whilst the Federation

has been busy on many fronts, it is important to pause and appreciate the work done by two former staff members, comrades Sizwe Pamla and Lebogang Mulaisi.

Sizwe played a key role in building COSATU's communications machinery and ensuring its voice is heard loud and clear across the nation and raising the views of workers and Affiliates. Lebo led COSATU's work on the Just Energy Transition and climate change and made sure the frustrations and demands of workers were placed at the centre of the domestic and international agendas on these important generational changes.

We wish Sizwe well in his new position as the Spokesperson for the Premier of Gauteng and Lebo as the new Chief Operating Officer for the Presidential Climate Change. We applaud their tireless efforts on behalf of the Federation and are confident that they will continue to raise the banner of working-class solidarity in the new chapters in their careers.





### Word from the Editor

Norman Mampane

‘The history of mankind is one of continuous development from the realm of necessity to the realm of freedom. This process is never-ending. In any society in which classes exist class struggle will never end’- Mao

This is the 3rd Edition thus far in 2023 and keep on receiving positive feedback from workers and consider some suggestions on how to sustain the magazine for workers.

In South Africa and elsewhere, the cost of living crisis is putting unimaginable strain on families.

In an ideal society, no parent should be forced to worry about whether they can feed their family.

According to the International Monetary Fund [IMF], World Economic Outlook Update, Near Term Resilience, Persistent Challenges, July 2023, ‘Global growth is projected to fall from an estimated 3.5 percent in 2022 to 3.0 percent in both 2023 and 2024. While the forecast for 2023 is modestly higher than predicted in the April 2023 World Economic Outlook (WEO), it remains weak by historical standards. The rise in central bank policy rates to fight inflation continues

to weigh on economic activity. Global headline inflation is expected to fall from 8.7 percent in 2022 to 6.8 percent in 2023 and 5.2 percent in 2024. Underlying (core) inflation is projected to decline more gradually, and forecasts for inflation in 2024 have been revised upward.’

South Africa classified as part and parcel of emerging markets and developing countries in the Sub-Saharan Region, is envisaged to record 0.3% on economic growth projections for 2023 and 1.7% economic growth in 2024.

‘Countries which are

classified as advanced economies such the United States, Germany, France, stand at an economic growth projection of 1.89% for 2023, 0.3% for 2023 and 0.8% for 2023 respectively whilst China as an emerging and developing Asian country, stands at an economic growth projection of 5.2% for 2023.’

The cost of living is too high! We must acknowledge the efforts made by COSATU Provincial Gender Structures for putting a meal on the plate of disadvantaged persons during the Mandela Day activities.

If we could sustain these noble acts of generosity, with all stakeholders playing their social responsibility to their communities, it may be decisive actions to eradicate hunger, poverty and to restore other people's dignity and the right to a healthy meal.

The cost-of-living crisis is worse than it officially looks. The level of inflation for poorer households is higher than it is for the economy as a whole.

Over 780 million people experience hunger!

In a world of plenty, it is outrageous that people continue to suffer and die from hunger. "-Antonio Guterres, United Nations Director General

At the recent Food Systems Summit, Guterres "urged action by member states to achieve sustainable food systems that ensure safe and nutritious food for all, while protecting the planet."

In this Edition, amongst others, we are covering developments around the National Health Insurance, the energy security,

occupational health and safety issues and strengthening of worker control.

COSATU National Health Committee recently reflected in various outbreaks of diseases such as Cholera and mitigating measures on how to curb such in the near future.

The underlying challenge of poor water provision by municipal administration, is worrisome. Across the globe more countries are preparing validation of the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B.

The recent National HIV/AIDS Conference in Durban has flagged some of the interventions, however many real challenges still remaining. New infections and deaths are falling, but not fast enough!

Global citizens continue to face multiple overlapping crises, including conflicts, unemployment, inequality, poverty, labour migration, climate change which impacts on peace, and

stability, economic development, decent work agenda and energy security.

The recognition of South African Sign Language (SASL) as the 12th official language is an important step towards the realisation of the rights of persons who are deaf and hard of hearing.

And it raises the need for organized labour to afford workers working with disabilities to be appreciated and catered for in union activities and be serviced as such.

Printing of union reports in Braille, is a must to door securing sign language interpreters for union meetings.

Inclusiveness is key. We must move from vision to action, integrating especially women, and the youth. Promoting Diversity and inclusivity in the Workplace, is a trade union issue!

Inclusivity And Diversity platforms must be created within trade unions to empower each other to manage such matters.

### On International Affairs

The recent developments in hosting Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa [BRICS] countries in South Africa have sparked various debates in different spheres of our society on the positive spin-offs of the bloc and also the threats, with Political Parties Dialogue held to discuss a range of issues, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, global financial reforms and world order.

BRICS countries engagements on various themes such as urbanization ensured that diverse experiences, resources, and perspectives, were shared in addressing common challenges related to urbanization, building future cities and communities, waste, climate change and environmental management social vulnerabilities, natural disasters and resilience.

These dialogues are a necessary tool to strengthen South Africa's position in geopolitical spectrum and its influence in the

African continent.

The international order is undergoing a tectonic transformation. The Trade Union Movement must not be left behind!

For the Global South, this process carries the promise of a new path of dignity and peace long denied to our people. But it also carries the risk that this tectonic shift will once again squeeze, sink or swallow other nations.

Many analysts contend that 'The war in Ukraine has already claimed many thousands of lives, destroyed livelihoods and critical infrastructure and created fear, loss and displacement.'

'But it has also had a marked impact on the nations and peoples of the Global South. From dramatic increases in the prices of food and fuel to the stifling pressure to choose sides, we have all felt the impacts of this war.'

We have witnessed the 70th Anniversary celebrations of the Cuban Movement against US repression.

It's the Cuban

70 years of the revolutionary struggle towards freedom, democracy, equality, and social justice for all.

'We remember our martyrs and our heroes that gave their lives for this cause', said Cuban Ambassador to South Africa, Honourable Enrique Orta González.

C O S A T U reiterates its solidarity with millions of Cuban citizens and working class communities denouncing the US unacceptable attack on the sovereignty of Cuba and join workers raising their voices, demanding an immediate and unconditional end to the embargo and the return of

Guantanamo to the Cuban people.

And it's a moment of reflection during the 70th Anniversary for internationalists to learn lessons, to enrich other solidarity actions such as the struggles for liberation of the people of Palestine, Swaziland and others citizens facing repressive regimes such as in Zimbabwe, Western Sahara.

Congratulations to newly elected shop stewards across our affiliated trade unions and solidarity with international federations who held their World Congresses such as the European Trade Union Confederation, and Education International.

'Whoever sides with the revolutionary people is a revolutionary. Whoever sides with imperialism, feudalism and bureaucracy capitalism is a counter-revolutionary. Whoever sides with the revolutionary people in words only but acts otherwise is a revolutionary in speech. Whoever sides with the revolutionary people in deed as well as in word is a revolutionary in the full sense'-Mao.

[Closing speech at the Second Session of the First National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (June 23, 1950).]

We look forward together to improving the social and economic status of our masses across the globe.

'Our task as worker leaders and worker representatives is, firstly, to build strong progressive trade unions and a vibrant federation. Only a strong and united COSATU, with strong and united affiliates can have capacity to advance tactical alliances with other trade unions as part of building the unity of workers.

Building our engines and uniting workers must also address our current challenges, that organised labour currently only represents less than 24% of workers in the

formal sector. Our second task after building COSATU engines and unity in our campaigns, is to increase the percentage of trade union density in the formal sector employment.'-Solly Phetoe, COSATU SIC Bosberaad, July 2023

Farewell to Sizwe Pamla who contributed successfully to the growth of this Magazine in the recent years. We wish him well on his new responsibilities in government.

**Aluta Continua.  
It is not yet  
Uhuru!**

# COSATU embarks on a Nationwide Socio-Economic strike

Workers under COSATU have given employers fourteen days to respond to their demands

**t**he substantive issues which compelled the Congress of South African Trade Unions [COSATU] to embark on a socio-economic nationwide legally protected strike confirmed that the life of the working class and the broader majority of South Africans is in crisis, and the socio-economic burden of this crisis hits informal workers, the youth, women workers, 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.

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 socio-economic 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),’ argued COSATU National Young Workers in a session recently in Braamfontein. This is still a time bomb waiting to explode, if it is left unresolved! At some stage the vanguard of the workers, the South African Communist Party [SACP]

has attempted to provide Marxist-Leninist analysis on the complexity of the capitalist crisis which points to the disjuncture on the policy front caused by the recent neoliberal policies of governments across the globe.

The biggest conceptual challenge is that neoliberal ideology adopts the language of freedom and choice, increased foreign investments, and open markets and trade to progress policies that lead to privatisation of basic needs such as education, healthcare, water, electricity and housing. The rich can often afford these services and can compete “fairly” in the “free market”,

but the poor—unable to afford healthcare, education or decent housing—are left marginalised.

Globally, the rolling out of neoliberal policies has led to a plethora of harmful socioeconomic consequences, including increased poverty, unemployment, and deterioration of income distribution (Rotarou and Sakellariou 2017; Collins et al. 2015).

Hartmann (2016, p. 2145) states that “neoliberalism typically refers to minimal government intervention, laissez-faire market policies, and individualism over collectivism [which] has been adopted by—and pressed upon—the majority



of national governments and global development institution.” She further states that “neoliberal policies have contributed to the privatization and individualization of healthcare, resulting in growing health inequalities.”

For example, by privatising healthcare, education, electricity, water and housing, neoliberals argue that private institutions are more capable, effective and efficient in providing social services.

Harvey (2007) states that neoliberalism is “a theory of political economic practices that proposes that human well-being can best be advanced by liberating individual entrepreneurial freedoms and skills within an institutional framework characterized by strong private property rights, free markets, ... free trade” and

This is what Friedman referred to as the system of “free market capitalism” (Friedman 2009).

However, (Garnham (2017) argues that decreasing public spending and government involvement in the welfare of people through the rhetoric of choice and freedom has a harmful impact on people’s health and wellbeing.

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.

‘The SACP, argued recently that it is not opposed in principle to genuine engagements of this kind, and in fact support these progressive initiatives.’

‘But, those proposing within the Alliance components must seriously analyse the structural problems that we need to address.’

In particular, ‘the Party argued that we need to do a serious class analysis of what has occurred in South Africa over the past three decades.’

On the other hand, the National Day of Action led by Cosatu received a backlash from those who said ‘it was a political demonstration by the federation, using it as 2024 national election tactic’, to negotiate its influence on whatever process.

This is view that workers

marches demonstrated that, it is a fallacy!

‘The substantive demands raised are issues which are indeed affecting workers and communities,’ commented workers on the streets.

However, a divided, progressive trade union movement, in a sea of mass unemployment, will generally be weaker, if it does not harness solidarity actions, within and amongst its affiliated trade unions to ensure that workers participate in their numbers in such National Day of Actions, as and when they are sanctioned.

Workers were able to eloquently raise issues such the high-interest rates, the energy and water crises, inequality, rising levels of unemployment, wage cuts, poor municipal services, violent crimes and poverty affecting the workers and the working class in general.

Articulating on why the Central Executive Committee decision was taken to embark on such a nationwide socio-economic strike, Solly Phetoe, the General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and speaking on behalf of all its Affiliated Unions, said “This is a protected strike, and a Section 77 strike certificate has been issued by Nedlac guaranteeing all workers protection if they join the strike. The Federation is pleased with the overwhelmingly positive response from



COSATU CEC Members marching across the country during the nationwide socio-economic strike

a “hands-off” approach from the government.

**But what has been the progress thus far?**

who came out in their numbers across twelve

the workers. Most workers have expressed full support for this strike, and we urged all workers, unions, and federations to join it. We embarked on this nationwide strike in protest of the rising levels of unemployment, wage cuts, poverty and inequality affecting the workers and the working class in general.

It is in defence of workers' hard-won rights to bargain and attempts by employers in both the public and private sectors attempts to undermine this constitutional right. It is a demonstration by workers that government needs to do more to end the current levels of load-shedding, cable theft, crime and corruption, wasteful expenditure and austerity cuts crippling the state, suffocating the economy, and further plunging workers into high levels of indebtedness and misery.

most unequal society."

"COSATU has consistently and continuously raised the frustration of workers with the government and the private sector with minimal response coming from them. Workers are losing hope and patience.

The levels of frustration, despair, anger, poverty, indebtedness, unemployment, crime, and corruption are a ticking time bomb that the government and businesses need to deal with fast. The government has become oblivious to the socio-economic challenges and continues to promote neo-liberal policies advancing the capitalist system while people live in poverty and suffocate in an ailing economy. Due to a lack of clean water, lives have been lost to an outbreak of cholera. Despite the deaths, communities were offered meek platitudes



SACP National Treasurer, Joyce Moropa-Moloi addressing COSATU's National Day of Action march in Hazeyview, Mpumalanga

This is also a signal to the government, the Reserve Bank, and the commercial banks, that the working class can no longer afford to bear the burden of rising levels of inflation, electricity tariff hikes and relentless and reckless increases in the repo rate. We demand that all employers pay workers a living wage if they are to survive and buy the goods that the economy produces. It is not acceptable that 29 years into democracy, South Africa remains the world's

of clean piped water by March 2024.

The working class is bleeding from the government's sluggish response to policy failures that are leading to cuts in real wages and a rise in unemployment with more than half the population struggling to make ends meet. COSATU demands action which will address the delapidating railway infrastructure, and collapse in municipalities, thirty-six [36] of which routinely fail to pay their employees.

Companies are closing in many rural towns as basic services deteriorate. The Federation has always offered solutions to tackle this myriad of mostly autogenic crises. Countless solutions have been tabled", argued Phetoe

## The government needs to immediately do the following:

- Raise the SRD Grant to the food poverty line in the October MTBPS.
- Extend the Presidential

Employment Stimulus to accommodate 1 million active participants in October 2023 and 2 million in February 2024.

- Ensure the implementation of the 2 pot pension reforms on 1 March 2024.
- Unblock the delays in the rollout of the public infrastructure programme.
- Intervene in the 36 municipalities routinely failing

to pay their employees.

- Repeal the Municipal Systems Amendment Act clause banning all 350 000 municipal workers from holding office in a political party at any level.
- Urgently intervene to rebuild and modernise Transnet and Metro Rail.
- Urgently intervene to prevent the collapse and liquidation of the Post Office.
- Allocate additional resources to ensure the SAPS, NPA, SIU, Hawks and judiciary are sufficiently resourced to win the war against crime and corruption.
- Allocate further funds to SARS to tackle tax evasion and customs fraud.
- Fill out all funded public service and sector vacancies by December 2023.
- The current situation must not be normalised, and the state must act to rescue the working class and the economy from this quagmire.
- Decisive action is now needed from the government because workers are running out of patience.

## Solidarity Action

The South African Communist Party (SACP) National Officials and Central Committee descended to Cosatu-led marches across the country in solidarity with the genuine demands

of workers and their communities.

The South African Communist Party (SACP) General Secretary, Mapaila Solly in Party statement said that ‘the Party stands in solidarity with our esteemed ally, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), on its National Day of Action, Thursday, 6 July 2023. This protected protest, authorised under Section 77 of the Labour Relations Act, serves as a vital platform to advocate for and safeguard the socio-economic interests of workers across South Africa.’

Mapaila said “The SACP endorsed the progressive demands put forth by COSATU during this National Day of Action. We recognised the pressing need to address the many challenges faced by workers and the broader South African society. Therefore, we pledge our unwavering support for the following critical issues. On ending the undermining of collective bargaining We firmly stand against any actions that erode the rights of workers and undermine collective bargaining. The government and capitalist bosses must recognise and respect the fundamental role that collective bargaining plays in ensuring fair labour practices and protecting workers’ rights. On combating crime, the SACP recognised the urgent need for comprehensive action to stop and prevent crime in our communities. Crime not only threatens the safety and security

of individuals, but also hampers economic development. We stand with COSATU in demanding measures that effectively tackle crime, creating a conducive environment for investment growth and social well-being.

On resolving the energy crisis and ensuring a truly just transition, the Party argued that the energy production and supply under-capacity crisis in South Africa has had far-reaching implications for families and the economy. We join COSATU in calling for immediate government intervention to resolve this crisis. The availability of reliable and affordable energy is essential for economic stability, investment and employment creation, and the overall welfare of our society.”

“Because of neoliberal structuring, Eskom has been hollowed out through outsourcing. In many communities, what our people are made to think is Eskom is actually not. It is contractors and subcontractors to which critical Eskom operations have been outsourced. Going hand-in-hand with this is tender bribery, other forms of corruption, and ruthless exploitation of workers in the outsourced operations. This must come to an end. As the SACP, we want to take this opportunity today, to call for a review of all Eskom’s outsourced operations, with the aim of in-sourcing them back in-house. We are calling for a public pathway, both to resolving the ongoing energy

production and supply under-capacity crisis and to build a just transition to a low-carbon economy. In simple terms, we call on the state to invest in new power generation capacity, including renewable energy, to make publicly owned power generation capacity the mainstay of our national energy security. New, publicly owned power stations must be completed in record time. Those responsible for poor work and failures to complete publicly owned power stations in record time, including the Medupi and Kusile Power Station projects, must face the music.

South Africa has seen a decline in Eskom electricity generation capacity under the neoliberal policies the government adopted, starting with imposing GEAR in 1996, combined with and compounded by corporate state capture, other forms of corruption, and associated governance decay. This is the context in which 15 to 16 years later, after starting the construction of the too little, too late introduced Medupi and Kusile Power Station projects, the two remain unfinished. Because of cost overruns, this contributed, in no small measure, to the rise of the Eskom debt crisis. The White Paper on Energy, which the government adopted in December 1998 under the auspices of GEAR, for example, prioritised liberalising energy generation as a sector. This was in favour of insinuating competition to Eskom in energy



generation from the profit-driven private power producers, called IPPs. Unfortunately, the failed neoliberal approach continues to dominate much of the government's thinking on pursuing new energy generation capacity and a transition to low-carbon energy production, for example, renewable energy."

"How can we forget that the government rejected the national democratic revolutionary measure of building national energy security through consolidating and deepening electricity generation self-sufficiency or productive state power generation capacity.

In pursuing neoliberal energy policy prescripts, the government claimed that private power producers had become the source of national energy security all over the world. This was false, of course.

In China, for instance, the fastest growing economy which overtook many developed economies to become the world's second largest economy today, the state is in charge of almost 100 per cent of electricity generation. Recently, China built six new publicly owned power stations in under three years. While our government

followed neoliberal policy prescripts, corporate state capture and other forms of corruption and governance decay gained dominance, and failures in completing the Medupi and Kusile Power Station projects to secure 100 per cent power generation and supply reliability from both, old Eskom power stations aged. Breakdowns and failures increased at the aging Eskom power stations.

The imperative to resolve the energy production and supply under-capacity crisis is crucial to industrialisation and employment creation – for without

uninterrupted power supply de-industrialisation will continue and industrialisation will be a myth. Tackling violence in general and gender-based violence in particular.

The SACP strongly condemns all forms of violence, especially gender-based violence. We say COSATU's demand for decisive action to address violence in general and, particularly, the pervasive issue of gender-based violence, is our demand, too. We must work collectively to create a society where everyone feels safe and secure, regardless of gender."



The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and all its Affiliated Unions embarked on a nationwide socio-economic strike on the 6th July 2023 with marches taking place across major urban centres in all 9 provinces





Workers in Johannesburg assembled at COSATU House in their great numbers prepared to first march to the Human Rights Commission at Brampak to deliver a memorandum of demands for the attention of the management of the Commission on biased handling of matters related to injustices meted against communities in general and the citizens in particular.

**In Johannesburg**  
COSATU Deputy Chairperson, Thabang Sonyathi said ‘...recently around thirty [30] died in Hammanskraal as a result of the outbreak of cholera caused by lack of quality municipal services by the Tshwane Metropolitan municipality.

‘Communities were exposed to unclean water for a while, with institutions such as the Human Rights Commission keeping mum to challenge the authorities. We therefore demand that the Human Rights Commission

investigate the turn of events regarding water supply in Hammanskraal. The Commission must equally fast-track all cases in their enrolment which are about trampling of the citizens’ basic human rights,’ concluded Sonyathi.

We give the Human Rights Commission only fourteen days to respond to the worker’s memorandum of demands’, reiterated Sonyathi.

**COSATU CEC Member and SACTWU**

**1st Deputy President, Suzan Khumalo** called on the Department of Employment and Labour to accelerate the enforcement of equal pay for work value after the SAFA fiasco in which Banyana Banyana were ill-treated by the Football federation, SAFA prior to their FIFA Women World Cup appearance at the New Zealand/Australia tournament in July/August 2023.

The second memorandum of demands was received by a Departmental

representative, Mr. Mthethwa who signed the memorandum on behalf of government.

Khumalo said “Never in our history since the end of apartheid have, we seen the levels of attacks on collective bargaining in the manner we are being exposed to on a daily basis by employers. Workers are experiencing high levels of wage inequalities, high interest rates, erosion of job security yet institutions such as the Department of Employment and Labour are sitting comfortably in

*their offices doing nothing. This must come to an end. Employers are tearing apart collective bargaining institutions and the whole labour market landscape with impunity.*

*We are demanding that the Labour Relations Act [LRA] Section 189 must be rewritten to ensure that social dialogue and genuine negotiations are enforced before retrenchments are effective. We call for rejection of modern-day slavery in the form of under-employment, labour broking, casualization and outsourcing’.*

*‘Unemployment is too high in South Africa and immediate declaration and enforcement of a national moratorium on retrenchments and job*

*losses in the interest of the public. We demand speeding of NEDLAC-led process of Amendments of Section 189 to enforce compulsory negotiations on matters of retrenchments and just consultations, with full disclosure and as a last resort for business or employers. The Department must respond to these demands within fourteen days upon receipt of this memorandum’, reiterated Khumalo*

**COSATU 2nd Deputy President, Duncan Luvuno** delivered a third memorandum to the Office of the Premier of Gauteng, Mr. Panyaza Lesufi who was absent as result of the Boksburg gas leakage saga and the burial of the former Minister in the Presidency, Dr. Essop

Pahad at Wespark cemetery, Johannesburg.

Workers insisted that the Premier be called to come back to receive the memorandum of demands, however the memorandum was signed off by the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr. David Mahlobo and also present were representatives from the South African Reserve Bank.

Luvuno said “More than one in 10 ordinary South Africans with a mortgage, personal loan or credit card are behind in their repayments as higher interest rates weigh on the economy. Recently, the South African government is finding itself incapable of dealing with the ongoing capitalist

*crisis and has resorted to increasing austerity measures through budget cuts. The South African Reserve Bank and government can create an enabling environment that supports the financial empowerment of workers and their communities and now is the time to such as intervention. It is imperative that the South African Reserve Bank take prompt action to address this matter, recognizing the urgent need to uplift the working class and promote a more equitable society.”*

*“We will be back here if workers do not receive responses from all the employers within fourteen days”, concluded Luvuno*

**The South African Communist Party**



AFADWU members came out in their numbers on the streets of Johannesburg to raise their voice in the farming sector



**in Gauteng, Acting Provincial Chairperson, Mandla Radebe said** *"The SACP reiterates its full support for COSATU's National Day of Action and its noble pursuit of advancing the rights and welfare of workers in South Africa. We encourage all our members, supporters, and progressive forces to stand in unity with COSATU, amplifying their demands for a just, equitable, and prosperous society. Together, we will continue our shared struggle for a better future for all, not least the workers and poor".*

*"On Upholding municipal workers' political rights, the Party declares that the blanket prohibition on municipal workers serving as political party office bearers, as stipulated in the Municipal System Amendment Act of 2022, undermines the political rights guaranteed to workers by the constitution. The SACP stands with SAMWU and COSATU in opposing this prohibition and calls for its repeal, ensuring that the political rights of municipal workers are respected and protected".*

"On Reconfiguration of the Alliance and forging a popular left front, building a powerful, socialist movement of the workers and poor, the Party in Gauteng argues that entering into an alliance should not be construed to be synonymous with subordinating our independence to any alliance partner. A revolutionary alliance must be enabling, as

opposed to neutralising or, at worst, paralysing. Therefore, we want to use this opportunity, once more, to invite COSATU and its affiliates, to join the SACP:

Together, as working-class formations, and as the socialist axis of our Alliance, let us deepen and widen our own unity and the unity of the working-class at large.

Let us build working-class power and democratic hegemony both in our movement and across society. Let us exercise our independence and hold high the banner of working-class interests. Let us work together to

the workers and poor. In the ultimate analysis, a new breakthrough, the much-needed transition to socialism, the sustainable solution to neoliberalism and capitalist barbarity, will come from a revolutionary movement consciously committed to socialism. Without a revolutionary movement, there can be no revolution. We want to urge COSATU and its affiliates. Let us strengthen our efforts to advance our shared struggle to reconfigure the Alliance. The reconfiguration of the Alliance and forging of a popular left front, building a powerful, socialist movement of the workers and poor, are not mutually

of both the present and the future, comrades".

Other speakers were SANCO leadership in Gauteng who called for government to address the issues of workers as members from various communities.

**In Gqeberha**  
**COSATU President, Zingiswa Losi** acknowledged all workers who came over to participate in the National Day of Action despite the cold weather conditions across the country.

Losi argued that 'the number of people suffering from depression



**COSATU President, Zingiswa Losi leading the march from Gqeberha to hand over the memorandum containing demands that are addressed to some government departments and institutions as well as the private sector**

forge a popular left front and build a powerful, socialist movement of

exclusive. These tasks are mutually reinforcing. This is about taking care

and mental illness have increased as a result of the high cost of living

ravaging our communities. As employers continue to attack collective bargaining, workers are crying loud against salary cuts, job losses and widening levels of inequalities in the society. This inequalities means working families' purchasing power is significantly diminished. The workers are suffocating as a result of the high interest rates.'

Losi emphasised that 'today, we are gathered here to demonstrate our anger and frustrations regarding the prevailing economic crises. We gathered here to express our united solidarity against these horrifying conditions we are all are facing in the current conjuncture. We stand firmly to demand change.

COSATU took a firm decision to re-assert that if workers do not turn around things, nobody ever will and its only workers who pay the ultimate price of these wrongs. In that regard, COSATU Central Executive Committee held recently prioritized four major campaign areas which are; fighting retrenchments and unemployment, fighting crime and corruption, fighting gender-based violence and gender pay gap and fighting the attacks on collective bargaining agreements by employers and workers' rights in general."

Losi said, "COSATU ordinary CEC further instructed that we must work with all organizations and institutions involved, or engaged in these

struggles to unite our people behind these demands, galvanize the working class in general against these social ills afflicting pain in our communities and our people."

*'We demand the immediate reduction of interest rates and repo rates by the South African Reserve Bank. Comrades, lowering these rates is vital as it will directly alleviate the overwhelming financial burden faced by the poor and the working class, leading to improved financial stability and well-being',* concluded Losi.

## In Durban

COSATU Deputy General Secretary, Gerald Twala reiterated that 'COSATU Central Executive Committee

meeting resolved to embark on this National Day of Action to reject the high interest rates eroding the wage share of workers. This continuous increase in interest rates and repo rates over the recent times has significantly hampered the economic well-being of the working class, exacerbating their financial hardships.'

Twala said "Comrades, this has placed an enormous burden on workers making it increasingly challenging for them to meet their financial obligations. Additionally, these exorbitant interest rates hinder the ability of workers to save and invest therefore limiting their potential for economic growth and stability."



COSATU KwaZulu-Natal Provincial leadership handing over the memorandum of demands in Durban on the 6th of July 2023



"The intention of the strike is to demand urgent action from policymakers and decision makers to take drastic steps to avoid an economic collapse that is threatening the lives of millions of workers and the poor. This is a legally protected strike that is meant to pile pressure on both government and the private sector to fix the economic mess that the country finds itself. Currently, half the country lives in poverty with many families forced to live without adequate food, and many of them cannot find jobs. Workers are dealing with wage stagnation with their wages repealed by inflation and punishing debt.

Since the onset of this current capitalist crisis, the ruling elites have implemented reckless budget cuts and imposed extreme sacrifices on the workers. There has been a blatant attempt to erode workers' hard-won rights and reverse the gains of democracy", concluded Twala.

## In Polokwane

Workers in Polokwane assembled around Polokwane hospital park along Magazyn street and they proceeded to march to the Department of Health, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, Great North Transport, Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, Eskom, The Provincial Treasury, SALGA also the Office of the Limpopo Premier.

COSATU CEC Member and SADTU President, Maphila Magope leading the march said "the background and the context of corruption in general in South Africa is long and protracted. Recently, we have

suffering of our people and their needs".

"Comrades, this is a struggle against greed, parasitism and institutionalized profiteering at the expense of poor people and

COSATU to advance the interests of the working class. We support workers on early pension withdrawal.

**In Cape Town**  
**SACTWU General Secretary, Andre Kriel**



'Reduce the high interest rates,' declare workers in Polokwane

been calling that all those implicated in the Zondo Commission Recommendations must face the might of the law and that is inclusive of all perpetrators involved in the VBS saga and the SIU reports across the country. But we have been alarmed at the rate of increase and impunity during this difficult period. It is true, both public and private sectors have demonstrated unbelievable levels of grand scale corruption without regard for the

workers. It is anchored in the unholy intersection between public and private officials and the private interests, therefore abusing the system for private personal accumulation.

SACP Limpopo deployee appreciated the close relationship with COSATU and committed to further deepening worker education and political consciousness of the working class. We agree to embark on joint programmes with

and SAMATU General Secretary, Dr Cedric Sihlangu were COSATU Central Executive Committee deployees who participated in the march in Cape Town.

Andre Kriel said, "As COSATU we are opposed to the privatization of State-Owned Enterprises [SOE's] due to its detrimental impact on the working class, leading to job insecurity and exacerbating socio-economic inequalities. Privatization often results



**'We are opposed to the privatization of State-Owned Enterprises', said workers in Cape Town**

*in down-sizing the workplace, job losses, and the erosion of worker's rights, such as fair wages. It also increases the reliance on outsourcing and contract labour, and furthermore marginalizing workers and weakening collective bargaining power. We firmly demand an end to the privatization of SOEs, reasserting that they should remain under public ownership to ensure they operate in the best interest of the people and the working people. We call upon relevant authorities and decision-makers to reprioritize the wellbeing of workers by preserving the public ownership of SOEs. This will protect employment opportunities, uphold worker's rights, and contribute to a more equitable society."*

The South African Communist Party Central Committee member and the African National Congress Provincial Executive Committee members were in attendance.

## **In Rustenburg, Klerksdorp and Mafikeng**

Workers responded in a resounding manner in Rustenburg, Klerksdorp and Mafikeng as the province embarked on decentralized socio-economic marches and assembled at the Rustenburg Taxi Rank, at the Klerksdorp Medical Centre and lastly around Montshiwa Stadium to march to various employers.

**COSATU Central Executive Committee** deployees such as **NUM President, Daniel Balepile, SAMWU President, Nelson Mokgotho and POPCRU 2nd Deputy General Secretary, Ouma Mokokong** participated in the three marches.

NUM President articulated that "COSATU has applied for a section 77 strike and a certificate in this regard has been issued. Therefore, all workers staying away from work and those who

are participating in the marches will be protected from any action."

"The National Day of Action was declared by the Central Executive Committee after making an assessment on the challenges facing the working class and South Africans in general."

Balepile said, "We have seen conditions of workers in all sectors being downgraded and some of the employers including government are reneging from signed agreements in the bargaining councils and therefore we are calling on all employers to stop their attacks on collective bargaining to restore sound employment relations with organized labour. We are further calling on government to prevent the high levels of violent crimes and the rising cases of rampant corruption undermining a developmental state South Africa must develop in the best interest of the poor, the downtrodden

and marginalized communities."

"Criminals continue to terrorise our communities to an extent that our houses have been turned into mini prisons because of the fear of crime. Corruption continues to thrive despite the commitment made by the authorities hence we are calling for serious action to combat crime and corruption," argued Balepile.

SAMWU President, Nelson Mokgotho said "The South African Reserve Bank must reduce the interest rate as we argue that the high interest rates have stretched more than half of South Africans to their nearly breaking point. As workers we believe that this has a negative effect on the workers and their families. The Reserve Bank must come up with better ways of growing the economy."

POPCRU 2nd Deputy General Secretary,



Ouma Mokokong said "The high levels of youth unemployment is worrisome. Government and the private sector employers must discontinue with their investment strike and create decent work for all our citizens. Our country has the most unequal society and we believe that this is not sustainable and unhealthy for democracy

Saliva Molapisi were amongst the marchers.

## In Allanridge

COSATU General Secretary, Solly Phetoe said, "We live in one of the most unsafe societies in the world, particularly for women and children. Gender based violence has become a norm and generalized violence has

any form of gender-based violence to create a safe, just and equal society. Furthermore, we call on all employers to ensure that they adhere to equal pay for work of equal value for both women and men workers employed, to end the economic exclusion of women and young people in particular. We reaffirm our determination to

provincial march to Harmony mine, with the SACP Free State represented by the 2nd Deputy Provincial Secretary, Mojalefa Simango and ANC Branch members participated in support of the demands of workers and communities.

## In Hazeyview

In Hazeyview, workers assembled at Kiepersol and led a long stretch march to deliver a memorandum to AP VOS & Seuns and Excelsoir Boedery raising labour issues related to long working hours, harassment of workers by indunas and supervisors and insufficient supply of personal protective equipment at work.

COSATU 1st Deputy President, Mike Shingange leading workers in Hazeyview said "the federation since its 14th National Congress at Midrand has called on government to desist on its neoliberal trajectory which has compromised quality public services to the people of South Africa.



'Cost of living is too high,' declare workers in Polokwane

hence we call on all those who have the capacity to create jobs and reduce unemployment to do so."

Alliance components members such as the SACP North West Central Committee member, Lekoma and the African National Congress Provincial Executive Committee member,

gone out of hand in almost sphere of our society. We call on government and all employers, including civil society organizations and communities to take a decisive and firm stand to end all and any form of gender-based violence. It is now enough, and we all must set our feet down and clean our communities and workplaces of all and

campaign tirelessly for the implementation of the International Labour Organization Convention 190, which clearly states both the crime of sexual harassment and the required steps and action to deal with it appropriately."

Alliance components participated at the

We are committed as a federation to campaign on the streets to raise the standard of living of our members and make sure they are protected from bosses from insecurities of life. The South African government find itself incapable of dealing with the ongoing capitalist crisis and has resorted to heightening the austerity policy framework.



President of SAMWU, Cde Mokgothu, Deputy Chairperson of COSATU NW, Cde Hailane, POPCRU Provincial Chairperson, Cde Tlou and SACP PEC member, Cde Mapheelle, leading the workers during the COSATU National Day of Action

This has seen massive cuts in public spending, leading to massive reduction in all aspects of social and economic benefits to the people in wages, retirement benefits and pensions, health, education and social welfare transfers. These trajectory cannot be left unchallenged by Cosatu.

Workers must unite in defending jobs, fighting corruption and well as the shortcomings of our law enforcement agencies in fighting corruption and gender-based violence. We need to fearlessly express our determination to protect the integrity of collective bargaining, and to resist all attempts by employers to undermine it', concluded Shingange

**SACP National**

**Treasurer, Joyce Moropa-Moloi said** "on reducing interest rates and prioritising employment creation in monetary Policy, we argue that together with COSATU, and other progressive South Africans, the SACP is calling on the National Treasury and the South African Reserve Bank to discard the "don't care" monetary policy attitude and replace it with a new, caring monetary policy content and approach.

Today, as the SACP, we want to use this opportunity to reiterate our call. We are calling for a new monetary policy framework. This must prioritise the expansion of our domestic productive capacity and employment creation as part of the explicit mandate of and accountability

by the Reserve Bank. A caring monetary policy should include long-term moderate interest rates and a low-interest rate framework to support productive capacity expansion and long-term sustainable employment creation. This move will provide much-needed relief to individuals, households, and enterprises, not least co-operatives, burdened by high borrowing costs, ultimately stimulating the economy and employment creation.

And on tackling unemployment, the Party reiterates that the staggering rate of unemployment in South Africa is a matter of grave concern. Together with COSATU, we are agreed to call for radical policies and immediate action

to combat this crisis. By implementing effective strategies and investing in employment creation initiatives, we can provide opportunities for the approximately 12 million active and discouraged work-seekers affected by unemployment".

## In Kimberley and Kuruman

In Kimberley, workers and community members assembled at Kemo Open Parking Space and proceeded to march and to present a memorandum of workers' grievances at the Metlife Towers Building, at Cnr Knight and Stead Street.

The memorandum was directed to employers in the private and public sector such as the Sol Plaatje Municipality, South African Post Office,



the Department of Education, the Department of Social Development, the MEC for Women, Youth, Disability, the Minister of Communication, and E-Governance, the Department of Transport safety and Liaison, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, the Department of Health, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Treasury, the Department of Agriculture, Land and Rural Affairs, the Department of COGHSTA, captains of retail Stores, the management of Telkom and the Mining Sector bosses.

**COSATU National Treasurer, Freda Oosthuysen** addressing the workers in Kimberley, said, *"We are calling on all employers to stop the attacks on collective bargaining in all sectors of the economy, the South African Police Services and other law enforcement agencies must up their game to prevent crime and corruption and the government must with speed implement the Zondo Commission recommendations to ensure that all perpetrators of state capture are brought to book and that justice must be served."*

SACP Northern Cape Provincial Executive Committee members participated in the march in support of the genuine demands of workers.

In Kuruman, COSATU CEC Member and PAWUSA President led workers to deliver a memorandum of demands to various employers such as the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, the South African Police Services, the mining sector bosses and the retail sector captains. ■



Workers leading the march with revolutionary songs in Rustenburg



COSATU National Treasurer, Freda Oosthuysen addressing the workers in Kimberley



Members of the National Union of Mineworkers taking charge to ensure a peaceful march at Harmony mine

## 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Notice: Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS)

All GEMS members have been sent the **2022 GEMS Annual Integrated Report** containing the official notice of the **2023 GEMS Annual General Meeting (AGM)** taking place virtually via the Zoom platform on **Friday, 28 July 2023 at 15:00**.

In accordance with GEMS Rule 29.6, the GEMS Board of Trustees requires members wishing to attend the AGM to **register online** by **15:00 on Friday, 28 July 2023**. Please note that online registration will close at **15:00**. No registration to attend the AGM will be allowed after 15:00. Accordingly, if you wish to attend the AGM, kindly go to [www.gems.gov.za](http://www.gems.gov.za), click on the relevant link embedded in the **2023 GEMS AGM** section and:

- ✍ Complete the online **registration form** by **15:00 on Friday, 28 July 2023**. **It is important to note** that only members who have registered will be admitted to the meeting;
- 📖 Acquaint yourself with the **Zoom user guide**, which details Zoom's functionality; and
- ⊕ Download the **Zoom software** for an enhanced Zoom/AGM experience, should you prefer this to the standard Zoom/AGM web experience.

Should you be unable to attend the AGM, you may appoint a proxy to attend, speak and vote on your behalf by completing the **proxy form**. When returning your proxy form, kindly mark it for the attention of the **Principal Officer** with the reference **2023 GEMS AGM Proxy**. **It is important to note** that your proxy form must reach us by **16:00 on Friday, 21 July 2023** to be considered.

Proxy forms may be sent to:

- Email: [enquiries@gems.gov.za](mailto:enquiries@gems.gov.za);
- Fax: 0861 004 367; or
- Post: GEMS, Private Bag X782, Cape Town, 8000.

For copies of the following AGM meeting documents, kindly go to [www.gems.gov.za](http://www.gems.gov.za) and click on the relevant link embedded in the **2023 GEMS AGM** section:

- 2023 GEMS **AGM Member Guide**;
- 2023 GEMS **AGM Agenda**;
- 2023 GEMS **AGM Proxy Form**;
- 2022 GEMS **Annual Integrated Report**;
- 2022 GEMS **Trustee Remuneration Report**; and
- 2022 GEMS **AGM Action List**.

We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to seeing you at the AGM.





## Gallery



# COSATU NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION 06 July 2023



# EMPLOYERS GIVEN FOURTEEN DAYS to respond to worker's demands

COSATU Gauteng leadership delivering the memorandum to the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Hon David Mbangiseni Mahlobo at the Premier's office in Newtown, Johannesburg.

**T**he Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) has given public and private sector officials two [2] weeks to respond to their demands.

Various independent economic analyst and commentators on media platforms have said 'Cosatu's reasons for striking are valid but the issues were raised at the wrong time'.

However, Cosatu leadership argued that the timing was informed by genuine issues raised by workers across all sectors of the economy, at workplaces and in their communities.

Addressing workers who were marching against unpaid salaries at Mafube municipality

in the Free State a day after the National Day of Action, COSATU General Secretary, Solly Phetoe said, "The federation applauds workers and unions who responded with passion and enthusiasm to COSATU's call for a nation-wide day of action on 6 July".

*"The Federation is humbled and heartened by the overwhelming support we received from workers across the country, both inside and outside COSATU. Affiliates are receiving reports of high levels of absenteeism from countless factories and workplaces. The turn out in the many marches held in all 9 provinces was inspiring with city and town centres covered*

*in a sea of red. Workers who were not able to join the strike, organised lunch time pickets at their workplaces and traffic lights in acts of solidarity. The fundamental objective of the National Day of Action was to ventilate workers' grievances, to ensure government and business hear workers' frustrations and proposals, and most importantly to hold them accountable for responding to and actioning these demands.*

On this score, COSATU's strike was an unbridled success with the Federation having placed workers' issues at the centre of the national discourse for the past week. Workers' experiences and anger, and most

*critically COSATU's key demands and proposals on how unemployment can be slashed, poverty eradicated, corruption tackled, the state rebuilt, and the economy grown have been heard by the entire nation".*

Phetoe argued that "Despite the massive success of the stay away, the Federation will intensify its campaigns to turn the economy and South Africa around. We have tabled our memorandum to government at all levels and organised business. We will maintain the pressure for them to respond and act upon workers' demands".

"COSATU will engage government to ensure the



Federation's key proposals feature prominently in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement due to be tabled in Parliament by the Finance Minister in October, in particular to:

- Increase the SRD Grant to the food poverty line.
- Expand the Presidential Employment Stimulus to provide unemployed youth a chance to enter the labour market.
- Accelerate the rollout of the infrastructure programme to stimulate growth.
- Pass the early access to pension funds amendment legislation by March 2024.
- Provide more support to Eskom to end loadshedding, in particular efforts to eradicate corruption and criminality inside the utility.
- Intensify efforts to secure and rebuild Transnet and Metro Rail which are key to mining, manufacturing and agricultural jobs as well as urban commuters.
- Stabilise and rebuild the Post Office and other State-Owned Companies and Municipalities.
- Resource law enforcement organs to ramp up the fight against crime and corruption.
- Fill critical public sector vacancies.

Phetoe reiterated that *"These are not once off struggles. COSATU will continue to push for and fight for these progressive demands in the Alliance, in Bargaining Councils and Master Plans, at Nedlac and Parliament, in the national discourse and on the streets until they are won. The Federation will remain unrelenting in defence of its members and the working class. We have no alternative but to continue the struggle"*. ■



Workers are adamant that employers must respond to their demands or else they will mobilize society at large to join strikes



## Gallery



# COSATU NATIONAL

## 06 July





## Gallery







## Redefining Eskom for a better future?

Government has taken steps to improve the performance of Eskom's existing coal fleet as part of a resolution to Load-shedding. The visit to Kusile forms part of our efforts to ensure the station is on track to produce the much needed megawatts

**t**he Electricity Supply Commission in South Africa is turning 100 years, however many uncertainties still surround the utility company.

**Former STATSSA Statistician, Pali Lehohla wrote, "As Eskom turns 100, how should it be remembered?"**

In a different column, I asked what happens to South Africa when the grid collapses. Are we going to continue on a neo-liberal policy and stay true to a Gwara-Gwara outcome or are we going to learn from Bijl, the scientist of Jan Smuts and approximate towards a Nayi-le-Walk outcome.

On the 1st of March it will be exactly a century since Prime Minister

Smuts, inaugurated into office his Chief Scientist, Johannes van der Bijl. The first assignment of Bijl was to establish ESCOM and thus on the 1st of March 1923 the Electricity Commission of South Africa was commissioned.

Bijl borrowed R16 million from government to undertake the establishment of ESCOM, a loan he soon paid, as ESCOM spawned ISCOR, SPOORNET, as key industrial infrastructure and the CSIR amongst the science infrastructure.

Bijl would soon realise that to muster a complex infrastructure with major demands for war wear emanating from the Second World War required that there is a financing mechanism and

the IDC was borne to play that critical role.

At hundred years, it is a critical moment to pause and ask ourselves as a country how ESCOM should be remembered. Should it be remembered as that which our political edifice pushed over the cliff to fall miserably and create the noise of a tree falling in the forest or should it be remembered as that forest which Bijl natured and grew silently into a complex forest that industrialized South Africa.

One wonders if ESKOM on the 1st of March 2023, at a hundred years of age, falls from glory with a cry resembling that of Judas Escariot after betraying Jesus on that fateful last dinner.

Against this backdrop how will South Africa remind itself of the birth of obnoxious Apartheid in 2048, a mere twenty-five years from now.

The cancel culture in South Africa has moved apace and it is eating at the conscience of the nation leaving it ghostly.

Robben Island, a monument of endurance, resilience, hope and freedom has been left to decay.

The resting place of stalwarts who created conditions for South Africa to have a generation that can proudly go to the polls to vote for a government of their choice remains desecrated.

In fact, dismembering of institutions is at the



heart of South Africa's decomposing political and economic carcass.

Exhortations about what South Africa will be, hold no resemblance from the current actions of our government. Neither is there an honest atonement to the rational of our policy actions especially, the one towards Eskom.

First, we need to remind ourselves of how Eskom ended where it is today.

Whilst institutions change mission and thus their composition as times change, the change for Eskom after 1994 has been for the worse.

Unfortunately, all for the wrong non-economic reasons. This was directional change that was unprovoked. Eskom had a higher rating than the sovereign by 2001. This represented the high mark of the legacy of Smuts and his scientist Bijl. At the turn of this century, Eskom for no good reason was corporatized, then subsequently its expansion programme was driven through borrowing from the market under the justification that through user pay, the loan will be paid.

Municipalities and government departments refused to pay Eskom.

In fact municipalities deployed the electricity user pay strategy as a cash cow to keep them alive and electricity. This precipitated rate hikes charged for electricity leading to electricity becoming unaffordable for households, even with free basic electricity that

government provides.

In a country where more than half are poor and unemployment is rife, electricity becomes unaffordable and paying for it takes a back banner as matters food take the front row in the consumer basket.

Communities began to default. Then soon, entered the renewables, which raptured the smooth running of Eskom by demanding a take-off price that Eskom could not afford.

Whilst the science of climate change is contested on the basis of billion years of observations, that of people having pulmonary diseases because of Eskom fumes remains uncontested and clean air is a necessity and everything possible to achieve health for peoples is an important basis to start from.

Quite apart from the climate change debates, treasury has removed the loan book from Eskom, thus relieving Eskom of any debt obligation.

Many heterodox economists, amongst them Redge Nkosi, questioned the wisdom of opening up Eskom to global loan sharks. They argued that these global mashonis, would hurt Eskom. Instead, they advocated that such loans can be taken against the sovereign and in particular the balance sheet of the Reserve Bank.

This is exactly what Bijl did and repaid the R16 million within five years and then through the same process created

the developmental infrastructure that the ANC government inherited post-apartheid.

Unfortunately, our thoughtless policy honchos in government, have decided to nitpick on the loan of Eskom, instead of learning from Bijl on the economic treatment of SOEs in facilitating their developmental role to manifest.

A Bijl approach is that general principle. Without a developmental orientation and a manifestation of such through the SOE infrastructure financed through Bijl's principles, a developmental state is but a dream.

The idea that such financing modalities crowds out the private sector is not proven in economics. Instead the converse is true in all developmental states. This is because of their public service orientation and their de-risking effects for entry of private sector in these industries.

The Chinese development path led by Deng was to shoot with that which is heavy at that which is light. Bijl became a perfect student of the Qing Dynasty by establishing an infrastructure that was heavy and out of it, they shot at that which was light.

The poverty of thought in our government is to isolate the Eskom case as a peculiarity, instead of understanding it as a fundamental generality.

Thus, by so doing they would learn from Bijl. As he parts ways with

Eskom Andre De Ruyter, the Samson of our times, has pulled the pillars of the Eskom temple and the temple has collapsed on us and the minister of finance Enoch Godongwana haplessly wants to lift one pillar in the hope that the temple will lift. The temple can't lift.

To address this, he needs all twelve pillars and these have to germinate simultaneously.

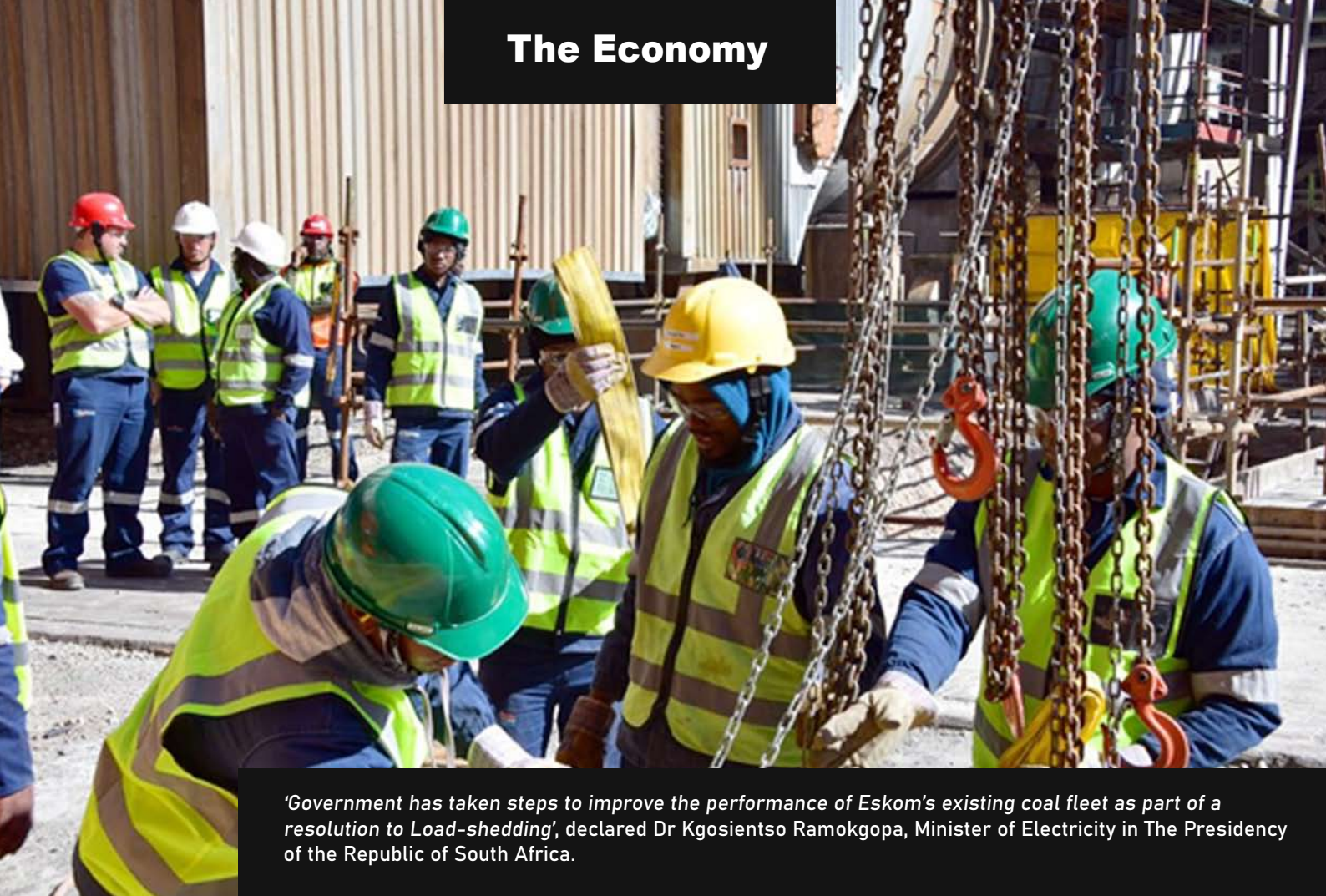
Unfortunately, they can't because the Reserve Bank has been allowed to hold onto its own pillar, resigning itself from developmental role, as it contemplates its own survival in a post collapsed Eskom.

What a sordid way to commemorate Eskom's centenary in the dark – A sure Gwara-Gwara outcome.

What then is the legacy of Ramaphosa and his resigning "scientist" de Ruyter?

**Dr Pali Lehohla is the director of the Economic Modelling Academy, a Professor of Practice at the University of Johannesburg, a Research Associate at Oxford University, a board member of Institute for Economic Justice at Wits and a distinguished Alumni of the University of Ghana. He is the former Statistician-General of South Africa.**

**NB: This publication appeared in Business Report.**



*'Government has taken steps to improve the performance of Eskom's existing coal fleet as part of a resolution to Load-shedding', declared Dr Kgosietsso Ramokgopa, Minister of Electricity in The Presidency of the Republic of South Africa.*

## **“Workers are motivated to work on Just Transition because they want to prepare for the future”**

**- Energy Summit Outcomes**

*Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan addressing COSATU Energy Summit held at Boksburg on May 2023 has urged for urgency in the steps to repurpose and re power the station, and in balancing decarbonisation imperatives with the need to mitigate impact of the energy transition on communities, jobs and economy. The Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Hon Gwede Mantashe argued that “we are faced with tough and complex policy choices to address energy poverty while heeding the clarion call to combat climate change. Our approach cannot be about one against the other, but premised on balance between fulfilling our socio-economic needs and preserving the environment.*

*Therefore, COSATU Energy Summit must help us shape our Just Transition in a manner that is practical and actionable to sustain economic growth and the betterment of human life'. Lebogang Mulaisi, former COSATU Head of Policy and currently the Presidential Climate Change Chief Operations Officer reasoned that 'Just Transition in a developmental context is to create good jobs for all. Repurposing some of Eskom's Power Stations from coal to renewable energy after being decommissioned, is an option to be explored. Job losses must avoided at all cost...' There are popular views from progressive Climate Activist who continues to argue that Climate Change that all related initiatives must be about sustainable development of humanity.*



**T**he Summit was based upon the call by COSATU's 14th National Congress to convene an energy summit, to amongst others, discuss measures to practically support the Energy Action Plan to end load-shedding, address criminality in and around ESKOM, improve the performance of power stations, and identify interventions to protect and create jobs.

This Summit was held as South Africa's energy crisis remains in a critical stage. Loadshedding continues to threaten economic growth and job creation and the ability of workers to earn their salaries. It also means businesses struggle to keep operations going. Households and businesses are experiencing blackouts for up to 10 hours a day. It is only a matter of time before load-shedding induces inflation, resulting in further unaffordable interest rate hikes.

There is a need to engage extensively on the current energy crisis we are faced with as a country. The COSATU Secretariat with COSATU's Affiliates, Ministers, the Presidential Climate Commission and experts met to enrich the discussion on the current energy crisis and help craft proposals on the future of South Africa's energy mix and ensure that the Energy Transition is a Just one that protects workers and working-class communities.

This Energy Summit brought together relevant stakeholders for complex engagements on energy security and broadly the energy crisis. COSATU's Affiliates brought their sectoral perspectives to ensure sufficient representation in the deliberations on the current crises.

The Federation has, in conceptualizing the Summit, included the inputs from Alliance Partners (the ANC and SACP), and reflections from the Ministers occupying key portfolios in this discussion.

COSATU has received detailed information on the President's Energy Action Plan and progress in its implementation, including the Electricity Planning and Recommendations for South Africa's Electricity Future. We are anticipating that the plans will adequately respond to the current challenges faced by South Africans and address the issue loadshedding and energy poverty.

Ensuring a Just Energy Transition is a central demand of COSATU and its Affiliates. It is critical that the Energy Transition does not send workers to the unemployment queue or condemn communities, in particular in Mpumalanga, to poverty, despair or hopelessness.

Government and business need to take this matter seriously and move from a state of commitment to one of action.

We need to invest in the skills of workers, formal and in the value chain and affected communities and to have jobs plans in place. Investments in local renewable energy manufacturing capacity need to be expedited. In an economy battling a stubbornly high unemployment rate of over 42%, we cannot afford to leave any worker or community behind.

COSATU also weighed in on ESKOM and its functioning. The Summit emphasized the role of the State in ensuring that ESKOM is not hallowed out through privatization. In the domestic experience of Independent Power Producers, we continue to push for a public pathway for renewable energy, in particular, that ESKOM be supported in investing in its own generation capacity.

The Federation takes the issue of energy democracy very seriously and we believe that if a just transition is implemented in the manner that COSATU envisages, where there is transparency and meaningful engagement with workers and communities at the core of the transition, that it can be a Just Energy Transition. It is through collaboration and commitment to a fair and just transition that we can address the energy crises and the other socio-economic challenges South Africa faces.

The Integrated Resource Plan is an important policy

document for South Africa's energy needs. COSATU is preparing for engagements on updating the Integrated Resource and Energy Plans to ensure they reflect the energy needs of workers and the poor, achieve energy democracy and unlock economic growth.

COSATU remains opposed to Treasury's conditions on the debt relief package for Eskom that prohibit the power utility from investing in new generation capacity over the next few years. This constrains the utility from participating meaningfully in renewable energy generation and places it in danger of perpetual loadshedding as its energy fleet continues to age and show wear and tear from constant high levels of use.

COSATU will continue push for this decision to be reversed. The state needs to drive renewable energy generation and not simply abandon it to the private sector.

We will continue to engage government on more favourable JET Investment Plan conditions. The ratio of grants to loans needs to be increased, and the loan conditions made more favourable to avoid saddling South Africa with debt that it cannot afford.

Eskom and investments in local manufacturing capacity need to be included in these JET IP opportunities. ■

## THE INTERVENTIONS ON THE POWER CRISIS PROMISING THUS FAR

“Eskom has prioritised about 25 transformers that will make it possible to add 12,000 megawatts of capacity into the grid by 2028,”

**- Minister of Electricity Kgosientsho Ramokgopa**

“Eskom’s increased energy availability to more than 60% has resulted in lower levels rolling blackouts”, said The Electricity Minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa

**W**ith the South African Weather Service predicting extreme cold winter, energy-short South African government has assured electricity consumers that the country will survive the challenging season.

Many analysts argue that it is interesting that regular updates are shared by the responsible ministry and that it enhances prospects on government accountability and transparency in tackling the energy crisis.

Electricity Minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa said ‘South Africa is keeping an escalation in power cuts at bay. That is because Eskom is producing enough energy to accommodate planned maintenance without escalating power cuts’.

Weekly update on the implementation of the Energy Action Plan, generation continues to show signs of improvement/stabilisation.

Ramokgopa further said ‘We re-affirmed South Africa’s commitment to climate agreements, and urged the United Nations to work towards a global definition for “Just” in the Just Energy Transition, to ensure that marginalised communities are, as part of a Just transition, salvaged from energy poverty’.

### **President sets Out Role and Responsibilities of Minister of Electricity**

The President of the Republic of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa has set out role and responsibilities of Minister of Electricity

around May 2023 in terms of Section 97 of the Constitution and signed a proclamation that transfers to the Minister of Electricity certain powers and functions entrusted by the Electricity Regulation Act (Act No 4 of 2006). In his 2023 State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Ramaphosa announced his intention to appoint a Minister of Electricity to coordinate government’s response to the electricity crisis as a national priority.

On 7 March 2023, the President appointed several Ministers and Deputy Ministers, including Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa as Minister of Electricity.

After due consideration, President Ramaphosa transferred to the Minister

of Electricity all powers and functions contained in Section 34(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act, which were previously entrusted to the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy. The President also transferred to the Minister of Electricity relevant powers and functions set out in Section 34(2) of the Electricity Regulation Act.

Section 34 of the Act deals with new generation capacity and provides as follows:

- “(1) The Minister may, in consultation with the Regulator –
- (a) determine that new generation capacity is needed to ensure the continued uninterrupted supply of electricity;
  - (b) determine the types of energy sources from



which electricity must be generated, and the percentages of electricity that must be generated from such sources;

- (c) determine that electricity thus produced may only be sold to the persons or in the manner set out in such notice;
- (d) determine that electricity thus produced must be purchased by the persons set out in such notice;
- (e) require that new generation capacity must -
  - (i) be established through a tendering procedure which is fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective;
  - (ii) provide for private sector participation.

This proclamation will provide the Minister of

Other powers and functions contained in the Electricity Regulation Act – including those related to the implementation of determinations made in terms of section 34 – will remain with the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy.

The President's delineation of powers and functions is directed at ensuring effective coordination and dedicated focus to deal more effectively and urgently with the electricity crisis.

The Minister of Electricity will, as the President indicated in the State of the Nation Address, oversee all aspects of the electricity crisis response, including the work of the National Energy Crisis Committee. This will provide a single point of

and management to end load-shedding and ensure that the Energy Action Plan announced by the President is implemented without delay.

## On Energy Security

The Minister in The Presidency, Ms Khumbudzo Ntshavheni alluded that 'the Cabinet Meeting of 5 July 2023 has welcomed the improvement in Eskom's Energy Availability Factor, which is now closer to 70%. About 400 megawatts (MW) have been added to the grid and planned maintenance has improved in a short space of time. Cabinet also noted the decision by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment's National Air Quality Officer to grant Eskom a postponement to meet the Minimum Emission Standards at the Kusile Power Station in Mpumalanga, subject to certain strict conditions'.

'The postponement will allow Eskom to carry out repairs on the stack that was damaged on 23 October 2022. The power utility will also construct three temporary stacks that are expected to return 2 100 MW of power to the national grid and reduce load-shedding by two levels'.

'Cabinet reiterated that government is committed to the Just Energy Transition (JET) and determined to mitigate the impact of climate change.

The JET, which was established in 2020, aims to achieve "Net Zero" carbon emissions by 2050. Cabinet thanked South Africans who continue to use electricity

sparingly, especially during peak times'.

Ntshavheni said, 'Our combined energy efforts have helped bring about lower stages of load-shedding. Cabinet further welcomed the commitments made at the New Global Financing Pact Summit held in Paris, France from 22 to 23 June 2023. President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the summit, which aimed to build a new contract between the North and the South to help address issues of climate change, development and debt'.

## On Green Hydrogen

Ntshavheni concluded that 'the Cabinet further welcomed a joint declaration of intent to establish the South African-German Hydrogen Task Force, which was signed by the Minister in The Presidency responsible for Electricity, Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa and German Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck'.

'The task force will look at how the green hydrogen market will be created and developed, as well as create business-to-business opportunities between the two countries'.

'Green hydrogen is generated by renewable energy and it has significantly lower carbon emissions than traditional hydrogen. Government has already created plans for a Hydrogen Valley, which is expected to run from Limpopo, through Johannesburg, to Durban. The valley will establish opportunities for projects that will kick-start hydrogen initiatives in hubs with the aim of boosting economic growth and job creation'.



Electricity Minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa meeting with Mozambican Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Mr Carlos Zacarias about South Africa's urgent need for more Megawatts

Electricity with the powers necessary to direct the procurement of new generation capacity and ensure security of supply.

command for government's efforts to close the shortfall in electricity supply.

The Minister will work full-time with the Eskom board



# Mysterious underground gas explosion incident shocked everyone

- COSATU Gauteng

Johannesburg situation at Bree Street after the gas explosion

**D**isruption of business, potential loss of jobs, dislodged traffic flow in the Johannesburg Central Business Centre and the safety of homeless people, were some of the topical issues since the aftermath of the alleged gas explosion which damaged the roads, and affected buildings along Bree Street in Gauteng province.

Three manholes were central subject to the investigation of the bizarre explosion on Lilian Ngoyi

Street which left one person dead, over 40 injured and over 15 vehicles damaged. Louisa Modikwe, COSATU Gauteng Provincial Secretary said "COSATU Gauteng expresses deep concern regarding the mysterious underground gas explosion incident that occurred in the Johannesburg central business district this week, on Bree Street, which claimed a life and resulted in several injuries. Our thoughts are with the family of the deceased, the injured and those that have lost their property

due to this incident.

This explosion has left the residents along the street vulnerable and at risk of further danger. This incident has dire consequences on the economy and the movement of the people as Bree Street connects to various transport modes. We call for a speedy investigation on the source and cause of the incident and safety of all the buildings around Johannesburg. We commend the prompt response of the emergency services and

law enforcement agencies. We call for cooperation amongst all concerned to prioritize matters of safety.

We encourage all residents to remain vigilant, report any safety concerns, and follow the guidance provided by the authorities. Through collective efforts we can create a safer environment for all in Gauteng."

Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi said 'the Labour Department has identified certain institutions to speak to.'



'The Disaster Management Teams were still searching strategic areas. They are of the view that there is something that needs to be confirmed before they can release additional information, but they are also trying very hard to check neighbouring buildings, and that is why they are asking us to leave the area because the impact at this present moment is not determined,' Lesufi said.

The City of Johannesburg said 'a preliminary investigation into the explosion in the CBD, which led to one confirmed death and close to 50 others injured, has provided three possible causes.'

City manager Floyd Brink said that 'the most likely cause was the ignition of methane gas in underground stormwater systems due to sewage ingress.'

Meanwhile, the Nursing union, DENOSA has called on government to beef up its preparedness for disasters following Johannesburg Bree Street explosion.

Following the hospitalization of the victims after the explosion of victims at Charlotte Maxeke and Hellen Josephs hospitals in the city centre, Bongani Mazibuko, Provincial Secretary of the Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa (DENOSA) in Gauteng argued that 'the Gauteng government need to improve its emergency preparedness as the province has become prone to many emergencies recently.'

Mazibuko said, 'Because there is still uncertainty on what the cause of the explosion was, this means that emergency service centres in the Johannesburg area should be on standby in case a second episode is experienced. Emergencies like this one tend to also affect the operations in the healthcare sector negatively due to chronic staff shortages in critical areas, which highlights the need to beef up staffing in the emergency service areas within the province.'

While the number of casualties did rise anywhere near the

numbers of the recent cholera outbreak in Hammanskraal in the Tshwane District, DENOSA believes contingency measures in healthcare services should be put in place as a norm and standard so that service centres like clinics and hospitals do not buckle under pressure when emergencies hit unaware.

As far as nursing service is concerned, DENOSA has been expressing concern over the urgent need for emergency- and trauma-trained nurses for many healthcare facilities in the country as these two areas of nursing specialization come in very handy in emergency situations. Emergency areas in many facilities become chaotic on weekends due, mainly, to injuries sustained in accidents and alcohol-related fights and shootings. Due to the shortage of Emergency Nurses, there is great potential that many patients could be lost if they are not attended to by adequately skilled nurses.

This is so because constant overcrowding in many facilities means

that quick reallocation of needed skills for Bree Street-like emergencies becomes impossible.'

'DENOSA believes, due to the high rate of emergencies experienced in Gauteng, the province needs to be one to take a cue from and practicalize the recommendations from the Presidential Health Summit, especially the 10th pillar which talks to Pandemic Preparedness, which talks to emergencies. DENOSA pays homage to the healthcare workers and nurses who intervened and managed the casualties of the incident at both Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital and Hellen Josephs Hospital respectively.

It is pleasing that the admission rate has since deescalated from 48 to 12 patients. But the explosion could have turned out worst had the fire managed to trigger what was clearly a dangerous situation. Had the worst happened, the healthcare services would not have coped and that would have had a disastrous effect on the recovery rate of patients', said Mazibuko. ■



# Illegal mining is fatal in South Africa

Illegal mining cause of Boksburg gas leak tragedy

Over the years South Africa has seen an increase in illegal artisanal mining. It is estimated that there are at least 30 000 illegal miners working in abandoned mines.

It is confirmed that the residents died after inhaling nitrate oxide, which leaked from a gas cylinder. Mining experts argued that the lack of regulations is the fundamental problem.

The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Mineral Resources, Sahlulele Luzipo, once said 'the government should consider deploying the army in areas that have been severely affected by illegal mining in order to stop crime. "Illegal miners armed to the teeth'.

But to date no tangible action has been taken!

Angry Angelo informal settlement residents have appealed to government to do something about illegal mining in the area.

The ANC has joined

COSATU on calling for swift actions against illegal mining in South Africa following the tragic death of seventeen people at the Angelo informal settlement in Boksburg related to a gas leak.

Generally, there is an anonymous view that efforts to fight illegal mining must be intensified. On the other hand, Premier Panyaza Lesufi is calling for 'maximum fire power' to address illegal mining following the tragedy.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions [COSATU] Provincial Secretary in Gauteng, Louisa Modikwe said 'the federation is deeply saddened by the tragic incident that occurred at the Angelo informal settlement in Boksburg, resulting in the loss of sixteen lives. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families and loved ones of the victims during this difficult time'.

*"The incident highlights the dire conditions in which many informal miners find themselves, risking their lives daily to make a living. It is concerning that illegal mining activities persist despite the risks involved, not only endangering the lives of those directly involved but also impacting the surrounding communities. COSATU Gauteng calls for a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding this incident."*

*We urge relevant authorities, including the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy and law enforcement agencies, to collaborate in uncovering the root causes of this tragedy and to take appropriate action to prevent similar incidents in the future. The people behind illegal mining within and outside the country should be brought to book. In addition, we emphasize the need for improved safety measures and increased regulation*

*within the mining sector. The lives and well-being of workers must be safeguarded, and steps should be taken to ensure that illegal mining activities are eradicated".*

Modikwe said, "We further urge the relevant authorities to provide support and assistance to the families of the victims and to those injured in the incident. Adequate medical care, counselling and compensation must be provided to address their immediate needs and mitigate the long-term impact of this tragic event."

*We call upon the government, labour unions and civil society organizations, to join forces in preventing future incidents and ensuring the safety and well-being of the people across all sectors. We mourn the loss of lives and stand in solidarity with the affected families and communities during this period of mourning and healing".*



# 'The coordinated attack on the road freight sector must be cracked before it collapses the economy'

- Amanda Tshemese

Two trucks were set alight late on Monday night as they were waiting in a queue along the N2 in Empangeni, northern KZN.

Picture: Witness KZN

**A**nation's development is largely measured amongst others by the civilization of its transport infrastructure and systems. Through an integrated transport system, South Africa as a country on the southernmost tip of the African continent, a developing country in Africa, we can link producers to markets, workers to employment, students to schools and universities, and the sick to hospitals. South Africa's rail and roads are critical drivers and enablers to our country's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP).

In the recent months, South Africa has experienced the most

devastating incidents of torching of fifteen trucks in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. Citizens were inconvenienced by road closures along the N2 for example between Ermelo and Piet Retief. This has resulted in safety threats for all truck drivers who were experiencing being robbed of their belongings or having to flee on foot especially in steep areas where the perpetrators mainly target the trucks.

**SATAWU National Spokesperson, Amanda Tshemese** has 'welcomed the decision by the police to assign a high-level crack team to investigate the torching of trucks and incidents of economic sabotage on the N3 and

other major routes in other provinces.'

*Tshemese argued that 'Some of our members as truck drivers are driving these trucks carrying goods amounting to millions of Rands and we strongly believe that these incidents are part of economic sabotage and stronger interventions are needed by government, law enforcement agencies and also truck associations to protect the strategic routes which are transporting essential goods and linking various provinces.'*

*'Sabotaging the economy will result to job losses and unemployment. Efforts led by the police will continue with the*

*work of monitoring and ensuring visibility on the strategic routes. SATAWU has maintained that the upgrades of the N2 and N3 freeway brought great improvement for not only the KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng province provinces but also the entire country, in terms of mobility, job creation, economic growth and more opportunities for the citizens.*

*However, we have maintained that the road freight associations must come to the party on the question of employment of locals in the industry. There are substantive arguments that most employers employ foreign nationals to exploit them and most are under-employing them*

*and therefore disregarding the labour laws in South Africa', reiterated Tshemese. Road Freight Association CEO Gavin Kelly has weighed in on the torching of six trucks at Van Reenen's Pass on the N3 Toll route. Kelly argued that 'as long as truck drivers with no work permits are employed, similar incidents will likely continue.'*

*'The association has called for action to be taken against those responsible for the attacks on truck drivers in the country, saying long-term effects are destructive to the country's economy. The attacks put the logistics sector at risk as trucks carry 80% of goods moved in and around South Africa. The attacks also cost the country millions of rands as trade and employment levels are affected. This has been ongoing, for at least six years, if not longer. The perpetrators of this crime are yet unknown but it seems to have been well coordinated.'*

The Minister of Transport, Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga, on the occasion of the Transport Budget Vote in the National Council of Provinces said, "We remain resolute as government to deal with challenges confronting the freight industry. In June, last year, the Minister of Transport together with the Ministers of Labour, Police and Home Affairs, signed an 11 – Point Plan with the entire Freight

Industry to find common ground, and thus find each other in stabilising the industry. Ours is to continue to build the sector to grow a transformed and inclusive economy served by a modern and resilient transport system. The Cross-Border Road Transport Agency is central in regulating the road freight industry and ensuring its ability to meaningfully contribute to the economy through the implementation of Linking Africa Plan and through the Africa's Continental Free Trade Agreement. The C-BRTA is a self-funding entity, its expenditure is expected to increase from R274 million to R286 million in 2023/24.

Transport infrastructure is essential to the fulfilment of the strategic goal of the Department of becoming a gateway to Africa and the World. Whilst there is an appreciation of the role played by other modes of transport, the reality is that the majority of goods within the continent are moved using land transport. This places strain on the existing infrastructure, which needs to cope with tons of loads every hour. With KwaZulu-Natal having both the Port of Richards Bay and Durban Harbour, it places the Province at the centre for the movement of exports and imports.

The Province is also a link to other Provinces such as Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, and Free

State. Through the N3 and N2 there is also high volumes of goods and people moving between the Province and Gauteng, which is the economic hub of the continent. The increase of heavy vehicles on the road, recent floods and underfunding of maintenance are some of the factors that are compounding the conditions of our infrastructure.'

'The Department has started working on the development of the Infrastructure Master Plan. This Master Plan will assist in the prioritization, provide analytical data, and needs assessment for construction and maintenance. It will also outline key areas of intervention, bold provincial infrastructure priorities, identify import-ant corridors and unlock some of the challenges working with other infrastructure roll players.

The Department is prepared to promote accessibility and the safe, affordable movement of people, goods and services through the delivery and maintenance of transport infrastructure that is sustainable, integrated and environmentally sensitive, and which supports and facilitates social empowerment and economic growth.'

**Meanwhile, the KwaZulu-Natal Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube has condemned the**

**attacks on the trucks.**

*"We would like to use this opportunity to condemn in the strongest terms what is an act of sabotage aimed not only at the road freight industry, but which seeks to paralyse the whole economy of South Africa."*

*"These main arterial highways are really our backbone for our economy in our country. It is estimated by the industry itself that the six-hour shutdown in Van Reenen's Pass alone could have cost anything close to R60 million upwards, including the loss of income and salaries, as a result of this shutdown," Dube-Ncube said.*

The Provincial Commissioner of the SAPS in Mpumalanga Lieutenant General Semakaleng Daphney Manamela has strongly condemned the outrageous behaviour of lawlessness displayed in this incident. *"We are a country with laws and we cannot allow our country to be subjected to this kind of criminal behaviour."*

*"An example should be made out of the people behind this act. Besides the great financial loss caused in terms of the damages, other road users were inconvenienced as the road was closed down for hours as police and other roleplayers were busy with investigation and assessment. The perpetrators thereof should be hunted down and be brought to book."* said the General. ■



## Parliamentary Updates

### Proposals for a “two pot” system for pensions for citizens on the plate

Persistent inflation and monetary policy tightening, recession fears, geopolitical tensions, volatile financial markets and downward revisions of growth projections globally and in SA has increased systemic risks-The South African Reserve Bank

**S**outh Africa is to introduce a “two pot” system for pensions. The new approach is intended to give you access to your retirement savings in an emergency, while keeping people from resigning to get their hands on their money. Just over 50% of South Africans have a pension fund and less than 12% will be able to retire financially free.

The proposed implementation date for the system is 1 March 2024, allowing time for legislative amendments and preparations.

The National Treasury said ‘ After further

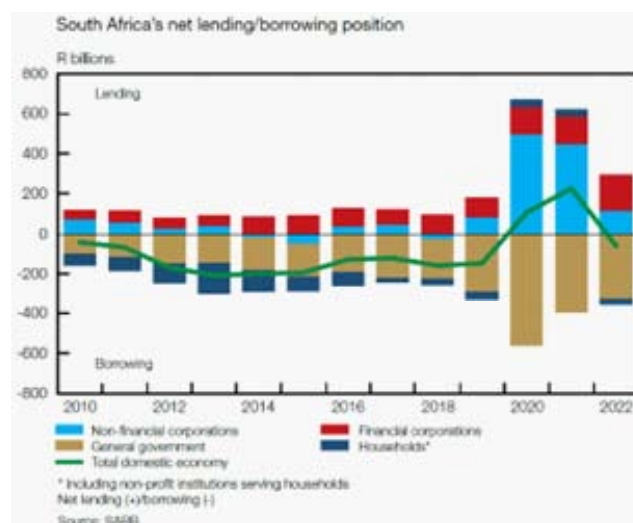
consultations, government intends to publish revised draft legislation on the ‘two-pot’ retirement system.

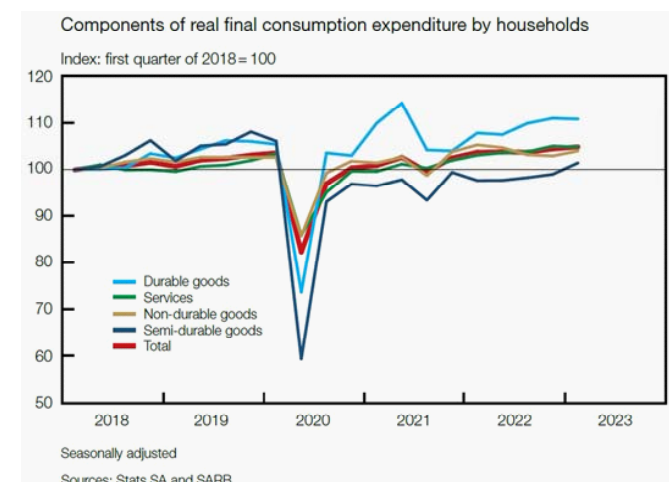
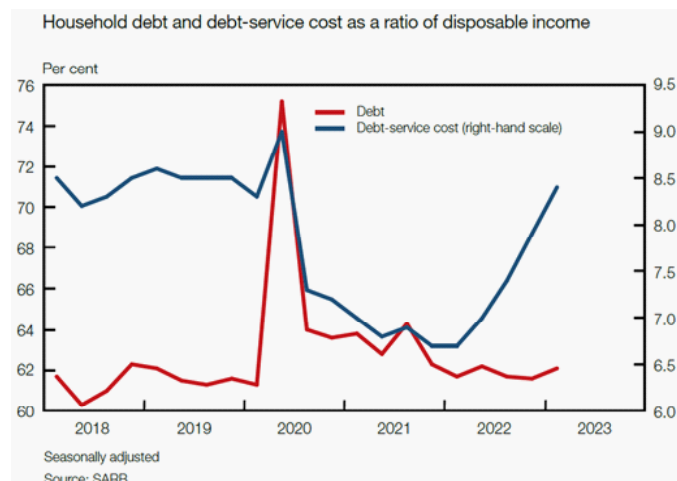
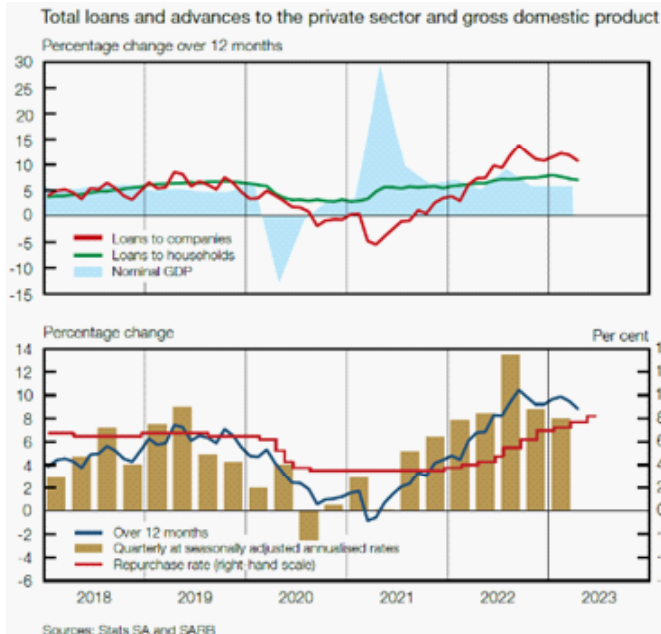
This will include details on the amount that could be immediately available when the system is implemented

from 1 March 2024.’

The Minister of Finance, Hon Enoch Godongwana articulated that ‘eradicating poverty, inequality and unemployment is as urgent today, if not more so, as it was at the dawn of our democracy nearly 30 years ago. We have open the window for our citizens to share their expectations on the two-pot pension system.’

The South African Reserve Bank [SARB] released its June 2023 Quarterly Bulletin (QB) today at 10h00. The QB provides a thorough overview of domestic economic developments





in the first quarter of 2023 and includes a comprehensive set of macroeconomic statistical tables.

South Africa's net borrowing position decreased from R26.4 billion (1.6% of GDP) in the third quarter of 2022 to R9.7 billion (0.6% of GDP) in the fourth quarter. The smaller net borrowing position was the outcome of a decrease in gross saving and an even larger decrease in gross capital formation. The net borrowing position of the total domestic economy in 2022 of R58.9 billion contrasted a net lending position of R226.9 billion in 2021.

Growth in total loans and advances extended by monetary institutions to the domestic private sector accelerated to a 13-year high of 10.5% in September 2022 before moderating to 8.8% in April 2023. Growth in loans to companies outpaced that in loans to households, with growth in both moderating more recently as most categories of credit increased at a slower pace.

With the increase in household debt exceeding that in nominal disposable income, household debt as a percentage of nominal disposable income edged higher to 62.1% in the first quarter of 2023 from 61.6% in the fourth quarter of 2022. Households' cost of servicing debt relative to their disposable income increased to 8.4% from 7.9% over the same period.

Growth in real final consumption expenditure by households moderated to 0.4% in the first quarter of 2023 from 0.7% in the fourth quarter of 2022, in line with a similar slowdown in growth in the real disposable income of households. Despite the strong increase in the first quarter of 2023, the post-lockdown recovery in semi-durable goods consumption has thus far lagged that in the other durability components.



## *Labour's Position*

The Congress of South African Trade Unions [COSATU] has appraised the working class about positive developments towards early access to pension funds through a proposed the "two pot" retirement system which has been put for public comment.

COSATU argued that the National Treasury must facilitate this proposal to be in use on allowing financially struggling workers early access to pension funds and necessary legislative amendments must be concluded.

COSATU has continuously pushed government to expedite this process as workers are struggling to cope. Many are supporting relatives who have lost their jobs, many have lost wages and are drowning in debt.

COSATU has acknowledged that the National Treasury has committed to fasttrack and table the necessary legislative amendments that will address COSATU's proposals at Parliament in June and October 2023.

COSATU will continue to work with the National Treasury and Parliament to ensure these Bills are passed by Parliament by December 2023.

This is critical to ensure we meet the implementation date of 1 March 2024 when workers would access a portion of their pension funds.

### **COSATU Proposals are:**

- A new two-pot pension regime that would be one third of worker's pension funds in a savings pot that could be accessed once a year and two-thirds in a preservation pot that should be saved when workers reach retirement.
- That this two-pot pension regime would be binding on all pension funds. This is critical to avoid a pension fund refusing to allow workers access to their savings pot.
- The two-pot pension regime would apply to both public and private sector workers to ensure no one is left behind.
- Workers would be able to convert existing savings when the law comes into effect in 2024 and thus be able to immediately access their one-third savings pot.
- Workers would still be able to access their pension funds that they have accumulated before the new law comes into effect in 2024, minus tax.
- Workers who lose their jobs due to dismissals or retrenchments would be able to access their

full pension funds [both the savings and preservation pots]. The modalities of this must still be concluded, eg. Is it a lump sum or monthly payments?

- Further engagements need to take place on how workers who are forced to resign for family or medical reasons could be accommodated.

COSATU believes that the two-pot pension system will provide badly needed relief for millions of struggling workers and their families.

Workers will be allowed to access their savings pot once a year without having to resign from their jobs or cash out their entire pensions.

Having access annually to their savings pot will incentivize workers to save more and cash out less knowing they can access their savings when in need.

This will help address the crisis of only 6% of workers being able to afford to retire.

Boosting savings will help spur investments in the economy and reduce unemployment which will further ease the burdens on workers.

COSATU will continue to work with the National

Treasury and Parliament to ensure that final agreements are reached, and that the Amendments Bills are tabled in Parliament timeously and the Bill is passed into law by December 2023 so that they can come into effect in March 2024.

This will require significant efforts from government as well to ensure that the South Africa Revenue Services [SARS] and the pension funds put in place the necessary taxation, investment, communications and administrative changes to their systems timeously.

Workers cannot afford any further delays.

They have waited long enough. Pension funds belong to workers and they should be able to access them in their moments of need.

COSATU understands workers are correctly frustrated by how long this journey has taken.

Whilst we are all disappointed by the length of time, we are confident that we have made massive progress and are nearing the end.

It is critical that COSATU and affiliates continuously update workers on further developments.

## Parliamentary processes

Treasury on Publication of draft legislation for the “two pot” retirement system for public comment - 9 Jun 2023.

**Publication of the draft legislation for the “two pot” retirement system for public comment.** The National Treasury and SARS today, publish for public comment the revised 2023 Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill and 2023 Draft Revenue Administration and Pension Laws Amendment Bill. These draft bills provide the necessary legislative amendments required to implement the first phase of the “two-pot” retirement system, they also take into account public comments received on the 2022 Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill published on 29 July 2022, and make provision for the name change from the word “pot” to the word “component” in the bills to be introduced formally by the Minister in Parliament. However, the word “pot” is still used in the colloquial form to describe the reform itself.

**The revised 2023 Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill incorporates the following key tax proposals that were mentioned in Chapter 4 of the 2023 Budget Review:**

- Implementation date of the “two pot” retirement system: It is proposed that the legislative amendments to the “two-pot” retirement system should take effect on 1 March 2024.
- Proposal for seed capital: This makes provision for access by the member of the retirement fund to a portion of the available balance in the retirement fund on implementation date of the “two-pot” retirement system, i.e., 1 March 2024. In order to limit the adverse effect

on liquidity, it is proposed that seed capital should be calculated as ten percent of the benefit accumulated in the “vested component” as at 29 February 2024, limited to R25 000, whichever is the lesser. It is important to note that when the member of the retirement fund withdraws the seed capital, it will be subject to the normal tax rates in the hands of the member.

- Legislative amendments to include defined benefit funds in an equitable manner: Defined benefit funds do not refer to contributions made by a member to the defined benefit fund to determine benefits, but rather uses a defined formula to calculate benefits due to a member on retirement. To treat defined benefit funds equitably, it is proposed that changes be made in the revised draft bill to allow defined benefit funds to calculate the one third contributions to the “savings component” based on one-third of the member’s pensionable service increase, and two-thirds contributions to the “retirement component” based on two-thirds of the member’s pensionable service increase with effect from 1 March 2024.
- Treatment of legacy retirement annuity funds: It is proposed that changes be made in the revised draft bill to make provision for the exemption of legacy retirement annuity fund policies from the provisions of the “two-pot” retirement system, as the inclusion of the legacy retirement annuity fund policies in the “two-pot” retirement system would require a re-design of these historically acquired legacy retirement annuity fund policies.

As indicated in Chapter 4 of the 2023 Budget review, legislative amendments dealing with withdrawals from the retirement component if a member of the retirement fund is retrenched and has no alternative source of income will be considered in the second phase of the implementation of the “two-pot” retirement system. Further complementary measures may also be considered in the second phase, to ensure that the primary objectives for saving for retirement is not compromised, and to protect the liquidity of such funds at all stages.

Members of funds should be encouraged to only exercise the withdrawal option as a last resort, and to try and preserve their savings for retirement for when they retire.

The 2023 Draft Revenue Administration and Pension Laws Amendment Bill contains consequential legislative amendments to the Pension Funds Act, 1956 (Act No. 24 of 1956) to ensure the smooth implementation and administration of the “two pot” retirement system.

### The due date for public comments

National Treasury hereby invites comments in writing on the revised 2023 Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill, the Draft Explanatory Memorandum on the Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill, 2023 Draft Revenue Administration and Pension Laws Amendment Bill and the Draft Memorandum on the objects of the Draft Revenue Administration and Pension Laws Amendment Bill. Please forward written comments to the National Treasury’s depository at [2023AnnexCProp@treasury.gov.za](mailto:2023AnnexCProp@treasury.gov.za) (link sends e-mail) and

SARS at [acollins@sars.gov.za](mailto:acollins@sars.gov.za) (link sends e-mail) by close of business on 15 July 2023.

### The process to enact Bills following public comments.

After receipt of written comments, National Treasury and SARS will engage relevant stakeholders through public workshops to discuss the written comments on the draft bills. The Standing Committee on Finance (SCoF) and the Select Committee on Finance (SeCoF) in Parliament are expected to make a similar call for public comment later in the year, and convene public hearings on the revised 2023 Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill and 2023 Draft Revenue Administration and Pension Laws Amendment Bill, before their formal introduction in Parliament.

Thereafter, a response document on the comments received will be presented at the Parliamentary committee hearings, after which the bills will then be revised, considering public comments and recommendations made during committee hearings before they are introduced formally in Parliament for its consideration.

The revised 2023 Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill, the Draft Explanatory Memorandum on the Draft Revenue Laws Amendment Bill, 2023 Draft Revenue Administration and Pension Laws Amendment Bill and the Draft Memorandum on the objects of the Draft Revenue Administration and Pension Laws Amendment Bill can be found on the National Treasury ([www.treasury.gov.za](http://www.treasury.gov.za)) and SARS ([www.sars.gov.za](http://www.sars.gov.za)) websites. For inquiries, please email [media@treasury.gov.za](mailto:media@treasury.gov.za)



# We need Youth Development

which is biased towards having young people as active champions of their own development socially and economically in an inclusive society, supported by an effective enabling environment



**'As a proud young woman from Sekhukhune, I decided to wear my exquisite Sepedi attire, adorned with vibrant colors and patterns.**

**This attire symbolises the rich history, traditions, and values of my community'**

**- Boitumelo Pheladi Maila**

**t**he National Development Plan [NDP] was developed in South Africa to, amongst others, provide sustainable solutions to tackle challenges faced by the youth such as unemployment, lack of skills, reduce poverty, inequality in particular and under-employment of youth in general. This was complimented by another breakthrough, the formulation of the National Youth Policy

[NYP 2030] for all young people to deal decisively with persistent, new and emerging challenges in the current conjuncture. This policy recognised that reprioritization of resources to enhance youth development was central, to tackle the issue of youth empowerment in totality across diverse communities inclusive of youth living with disabilities, students, youth formations and young workers. Such

considerations relevant was to incorporate youth development on various areas of programmes inclusive of integrating the youth into the economy and society. According to Statistics South Africa [STATSSA] [2019], youth aged 15-34 years constitute 37% of the country's population [20 640 722]. The number has increased in the passed four years yet youth development is

handled in a wishy washy manner. Young people represent a powerful resource for the country, provided they are supported and enabled to become active members of society. The NDP 2030 states that: '.....having a relatively young population can be advantageous, provided the majority of working age individuals are gainfully employed. The challenge is to convert this into a demographic dividend.

This will only be possible if the number of the working age individuals can be employed in productive activities.' Yet socio-cultural, political, and economic norms continue to side-line young South Africans, treating political and economic participation as the prerogative of older people. This must change and it is the youth who must champion that change. Boitumelo Maila, the National Deputy Secretary of the Democratic Nursing Organization [DENOSA] Student Movement participated in a panel discussion organized by the Young African Leaders Initiative [YALI] on the theme, 'Re-igniting youth Empowerment', in a changing world.

I recently participated in the Young African Leaders Initiative [YALI] panel debate which provided valuable insights and perspectives on empowering the youth and raising key challenges faced by young individuals in our society. I firmly believe that understanding youth empowerment, defining its significance in society, and exploring the potential benefits of empowering young people individually and collectively, are all vital steps towards creating a better future for our society.

Additionally, we must recognize the role of education, skills development, and access to resources in empowering youth effectively. We must take for granted that youth empowerment is understood by everyone and its significance in society are explicit. We must never shy to venture in explaining what it means for us as young people! Youth empowerment refers to the process of

enabling young individuals to gain control over their lives, make informed decisions, and take action to effect positive change in their communities.

It involves providing young people with the necessary tools, knowledge, skills, and opportunities to become active, responsible, and engaged citizens. The significance of youth empowerment lies in its potential to cultivate a generation of leaders who can contribute meaningfully to society, address pressing issues, and shape the future.

## **Significance of youth empowerment in society**

Youth empowerment is of paramount importance for several reasons.

Firstly, young people represent the future leaders, innovators, and change-makers of our society. By empowering them, we ensure that our communities benefit from their fresh perspectives, creative ideas, and dynamic energy. Secondly, empowering youth fosters a sense of ownership, responsibility, and accountability among young individuals, leading to a more active and engaged citizenry. Thirdly, youth empowerment is essential for social justice and equity, as it enables marginalized youth to overcome barriers, realize their full potential, and contribute to society on an equal footing.

## **The potential benefits of empowering young people individually and collectively:**

Empowering young people individually and collectively yields numerous benefits.

On an individual level,

youth empowerment enhances self-confidence, self-esteem, and resilience, enabling young individuals to overcome challenges and pursue their aspirations.

It also promotes personal growth, skill development, and lifelong learning, equipping them with the tools necessary for success.

Collectively, empowered youth become catalysts for positive change, driving social, economic, and environmental progress. Their contributions can lead to improved community development, increased civic engagement, and enhanced social cohesion.

The role of education, skills development, and access to resources in empowering youth: Education plays a crucial role in youth empowerment. Quality education equips young people with essential knowledge, critical thinking skills, and a broad understanding of the world.

It empowers them to make informed decisions, participate actively in society, and contribute effectively. Skills development is equally vital, as it enables youth to acquire practical abilities, such as communication, problem-solving, and leadership skills.

Access to resources, including financial support, mentorship, and technology, is essential for levelling the playing field and providing equal opportunities for all youth, regardless of their background or circumstances.

In conclusion, youth empowerment holds immense significance in society. By empowering young people individually and collectively, we can

harness their potential to drive positive change, ensure a more inclusive and just society, and secure a brighter future. Education, skills development, and access to resources play critical roles in this process, as they provide the necessary foundations for youth to thrive. Let us commit ourselves to supporting and empowering our youth, for their success is synonymous with the success of our society. Also one important Factor that we forget is prioritizing mental health among youth. The wellbeing of young individuals directly impacts their overall development, happiness, and future success.

By recognizing and addressing mental health challenges early on, we can empower young people to navigate the complexities of life, build resilience, and achieve their full potential.

Investing in mental health support systems, promoting awareness, and reducing stigma are crucial steps towards creating a society that values and nurtures the mental well-being of its youth. By doing so, we can cultivate a generation of healthy, resilient, and thriving individuals who will contribute positively to their communities and shape a brighter future for us all. Facilitating young people's engagement in building a better South Africa, Africa and a better world, is possible!

**Article was submitted by Boitumelo Maila, National Deputy Secretary of the Democratic Nursing Organization [DENOSA] Student Movement.**

*The opinions expressed are personal reflections.*



# Energy crisis, water crisis, state of state owned enterprises, coalition governments, integrity commission reports, reconfiguration of Alliance were on the agenda when Alliance Partners engaged in 2023

The zeal, character and absolute determination of past leaders such as Comrade Peter Mokaba against all odds, even against the threat of death, remains an inspiration for all successive youth generations, says the ANC members

The African National Congress [ANC] and the South African Communist Party [SACP] Officials met and Nomvula Mokonyane, 1st Deputy Secretary General and Solly Mapaila, General Secretary shared the outcomes of the bilateral talks.

The National Officials of the African National Congress (ANC) and the National Office Bearers of the South African Communist Party (SACP) met on Saturday, 1 July 2023, in a high-level bilateral session.

This meeting discussed the State of the National Democratic Revolution, the renewal/reconfiguration of

the Alliance, the international situation and balance of forces, preparations for the forthcoming Alliance Economic and Energy Summit and the 2024 national and provincial elections.

Both Alliance partners recognised the profound importance of the meeting, coming as it did against the backdrop of a range of internal organizational challenges experienced by both organisations; the challenges and obstacles posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent lockdowns; as well as the dynamics arising from both organisations holding national conferences / congresses in the recent

past and coming together with fresh mandates and priorities. Both partners reaffirmed their commitment to the National Democratic Revolution, our shared strategy of struggle and transformation to eliminate the legacy of oppression and transform South Africa into a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.

Millions of South Africans have realised important social advances since our April 1994 democratic breakthrough, under the ANC-led government, and significant progress has been achieved in building, consolidating and developing our democracy, all as part

of the National Democratic Revolution. However, it is also true that the National Democratic Revolution is currently facing both objective and subjective challenges. The ANC and the SACP recognise that further progress in advancing the National Democratic Revolution depends on the strength and cohesion of the Revolutionary Alliance. We have agreed to work together towards strengthening the Alliance.

A renewed/reconfigured Alliance, which we are committed to build, is essential to the renewal of the wider unity of, and growing support from the motive forces of the National Democratic Revolution.

Through this process we are determined to work together to deepen the revolution to solve the economic and social problems affecting our people, not least to meet their material needs, such as work, poverty eradication, and systematic elimination of the high levels of racialised and gendered inequalities. The Bilateral acknowledged that the terrain upon which we operate has changed, and that these changes necessitate that the Alliance must adapt to these circumstances and more effectively confront the challenges before us.

We agreed to put in place the basis for discussing the modalities of such a renewal/reconfiguration of the Alliance. Already the meeting identified important elements, such as a joint Alliance programme and regular Alliance consultation, and, to this end, monthly Political Council meetings.

Following bilateral sessions with COSATU and joint Alliance preparations, the Alliance will, in due course, convene its Economic and Energy Summit. Working together, we will develop and implement a joint programme of action ahead of the next national and provincial elections and beyond.

The bilateral acknowledged that work has already begun to assess how far we have gone in implementing the 2019 Elections Manifesto. Alliance partners are part of this review process, which will inform the drafting of the 2024 manifesto.

The Alliance partners will also form part of the 2024 manifesto drafting process. This exemplifies the functioning of a renewed/reconfigured Alliance, not only in respect of elections but other important questions of the political

struggle and democratic transformation.

In this regard the meeting emphasised the importance of unity in action based on a joint programme, not only at national, but also at provincial and local levels. The Alliance partners will engage and work together regarding the elections candidate selection process. The meeting received a briefing on work done to build a better Africa and world. This imperative includes the work done by the government, notably the recent African Leaders' Peace Mission to Ukraine and Russia. We expressed our support for the world peace effort.

The Alliance partners discussed the forthcoming BRICS Summit.

We agreed that matters such as the expansion of BRICS membership require further consideration. Another meeting will take place shortly to reflect on this and other matters of international significance and importance to our national transformation and development. The meeting was also briefed about the situation in Swaziland, notably concerned about alleged abductions of Swaziland democracy activists. The meeting agreed to look into this matter further, to develop a joint approach to promoting democracy and human rights in eSwatini.

This was a fruitful meeting that will form the basis for constructive discussion in the Alliance Political Council. PYA strengthened with ANCYL successful Congress at Nasrec.

The African National Congress Youth League held its 26th National Congress at Nasrec, Johannesburg

from the 29th of July to the 2nd of July 2023 under the Theme, "Economic Freedom and Social Change-Now and Not Later." The Progressive Youth Alliance [PYA] has been limping for eight [8] years, with an unmandated youth league structure operating as Task Teams appointed to coordinate issues affecting young people in the Party. The ANC is seized with a process to assess leadership performances during the current government administration.

And the re-launching of the youth structure will enable optimal deployment of human resources by the ANC going forward. The ANC recognised and accepted that it is in the nature of young people to be impatient with change and looking forward to a vibrant, militant, radical, disciplined and autonomous ANCYL. The ANC urged the ANCYL to live up to its historic mission of championing youth interests whilst mobilising them behind the vision of the ANC. The ANC emphasized that the ANCYL must fearlessly define its autonomous role as a disciplined integral to the ANC.

Delegates in a jubilant mood descended in plenary sessions in revolutionary songs, confident to rebuild the youth

structure. ANC President, Comrade Cyril Ramaphosa and the Secretary-General, Fikile Mbalula addressed delegates at the 26th ANCYL National Congress and both reiterated that '....it is only when the ANCYL lives and leads the youth that renewal of our movement can become a reality in our lifetime'. They emphasised that 'a revitalised ANCYL lends credence on why Lenin believed that the youth must build the future from the ashes of the dethroned past'. The newly elected African National Congress Youth League Officials were:

- President - Collen Malatji
- Deputy President - Phumzile Mgcina
- Secretary General - Mntuwoxolo Ngudle
- 1st Deputy Secretary General - Tsakani Shiviti
- 2nd Deputy Secretary General - Olga Seate
- Treasurer-General - Zwelo Masilela

**ANCYL President, Collen Malatji said, "Today, we remind South Africa that the ANCYL officially has its autonomy back. The 26th ANCYL administration will be known as the leadership that prioritises addressing the fundamental**



**'The ANCYL officially has its autonomy back', said ANCYL President Collen Malatji**



issues of young people, particularly unemployment. Entrusted as a custodian of ushering in a renewal for Youth by Youth. Policy positions that would improve the material conditions of the marginalised will be advocated for without fear or favour. "The ANCYL is not a multiracial organisation, it is a non-racial organisation. We are an organisation open to all races. Everyone is open to join the ANCYL..."

"As a part of our renewal, the ANCYL aims to enhance its relationship with like-minded youth formations around the world, with a particular focus on the Global South. As we consider the socioeconomic challenges facing the South African youth, the ANCYL will be benchmarking in countries such as China, working with the Communist Youth League of China". Amongst the elected members of the National Executive Committee members of the ANCYL were Hassan Fasia, Khanyase Zama, Mbele Pinky Malebana, Gumede Nkosinathi, Louw Tshepo, Tau Jacob, Magubane Mbalizonke, Mgwaza Ntombi, Mtshweni Dennis, Sokatsha Milisa, Jama Palo, Mogotlane Koketso, Zingitwa Sizwe and Sokomani Ondela. They were elected by 2 450 eligible voters at the Congress.

Meanwhile, COSATU affiliated trade union's young workers embarked on various sporting activities, youth lectures and marches on Youth Day, June 16 to deconstruct the role of young people in the current conjuncture.

"This year's anniversary celebrations are taking place as 62% of young people in South Africa are unemployed and the situation is not improving. Young people are hamstrung

by societal issues such as poverty, unemployment and the never-ending load shedding which affects many business establishment where young people are employed on temporary basis such as restaurants, factories, etc.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) Young Workers' Forum is honouring this historic day with affiliated unions across the provinces under the theme "Working together towards Youth Development through action", said Msiyoyo Siyabonga Mkhize.

COSATU Young Workers' Forum National Secretary "16 June 1976 marked the moment when a generation of courageous youth in Soweto and townships across the nation rebelled against the apartheid regime and its oppressive education policies. Their sacrifices changed the course of South Africa's history for the better. This signalled an entry en masse of the youth into the mass democratic movement that continues to today in the form of the Progressive Youth Alliance and its formations including SASCO and COSAS.

Young people are not immune to the challenges facing the working class. Youth unemployment remains above 60%. Young people, in particular young women, are at risk to gender-based violence and sexual harassment at the workplace. If we are to turn South Africa around, then we need to ensure that we invest in young workers and place youth empowerment and employment at the centre of our developmental agenda", alluded Mkhize.

COSATU and its Young

Workers' Forum call upon government, education institutions and the private sector to act decisively to:

- Ensure that our schools are well resourced, teaching vacancies are filled, the infrastructure backlog addressed and security ensured so that our schools are places of learning.
- Resolve the administrative and funding challenges undermining the progressive mandate of NSFAS and that its resource are expanded so that all qualifying working class students are able to access tertiary education.
- Expand internship and artisanship programmes as well as the Presidential Employment and Youth Employment programmes in both the public and private sector to afford young people the chance to enter the labour market, earn a salary and acquire the necessary skills and experience to find permanent jobs.
- Extend the National Youth Development Agency's mandate and programmes, in particular those that support youth entrepreneurship. This may need to include consolidating duplicate programmes.

- Make financing from state and commercial banks, including the Land Bank, more accessible for young people seeking to establish their own businesses.
- Fill all vacancies in the public sector, in particular addressing the crisis of unemployed graduates whose skills are badly needed by the state.

Mkhize concluded that "We salute the 1976 youth for facing head-on the heavily armed apartheid police with only their bare hands, sticks and stones. Their brave act of defiance which led to the loss of hundreds of lives and incarceration of young lives, changed the trajectory of the country's future. No one can deny that South Africa was never the same after that fateful day as protests in defiance of the apartheid regime spread across the country, became the order of the day, and caused the apartheid regime to eventually relent. As we observe this historic day on the 28th year of South Africa's constitutional democracy, the country will always be indebted to that Class of 1976".



COSATU Young workers leading a march in Umbilo Police Station around Durban to demand justice for Cde Sboniso Nkomonde

# NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

## Question & Answer

### **What is NHI (National Health Insurance)?**

NHI (National Health Insurance) is a health financing system that is designed to pool funds to provide access to quality affordable personal health services for All South Africans, based on their health needs, irrespective of their socio-economic status.

### **Why does South Africa need National Health Insurance?**

Health care is a human right that every one of us is entitled to; this is also a widely accepted international principle. This right should not depend on one's financial status or where they happen to live.

### **What are the main objectives of the NHI?**

NHI aims to achieve Universal Health Coverage for all South Africans.

### **How will the NHI work?**

Health care is a human right that every one of us is entitled to; this is also a widely accepted international principle. This right should not depend on one's financial status or where they happen to live.

### **Will the NHI benefit everyone?**

The NHI aims to deliver universal access to healthcare. The present reality is that even people who are members of private medical schemes, more often than not, exhaust their benefits before the end of the financial contribution annual cycle due to the exorbitant price structure in the private health system.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





# **‘THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE [NHI] need not be rushed until we tighten up loose ends’, argues Dr. Prinsen**

The National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill envisages the establishment of a National Health Insurance Fund and sets out its powers, functions and governance structures. The fund will purchase health care services for all users who are registered with it.—National Department of Health

**T**he National Department of health has been working hard to build a community-friendly health care system and a resilient health system to achieve universal health coverage in South African. The Department has begun to reap the benefits of its investment in jerking up the public health system in building a healthier nation.

The second Presidential Health Summit held on 4-5 May 2023 focused on nine pillars of the 2019 Presidential Health Compact: human resources; access to medicine, vaccines and health products; infrastructure; private sector engagement; quality healthcare; public sector financial management improvements; governance and leadership; community engagements; information systems and pandemic preparedness. One of the outcomes of the Summit was the renewed commitment to implement the National Health Insurance (NHI). This is part

of a programme to reduce disparities in accessing health care services by alleviating the financial burden for accessing healthcare services. The subsequent South African Cabinet meeting welcomed the adoption of measures that are needed to recalibrate the health system and accelerate the National Health Insurance [NHI] reforms. The National Health Department alluded that ‘those measures moved the health systems closer to better serve South Africans.’

On the hand, many critics of the National Health Insurance being introduced argued that ‘If South Africa wants better health outcomes, it must have economic growth. It is intuitive that there is a strong relationship between income and health, not least because greater wealth buys greater access to the basic determinants of health: nutrition, better accommodation and sanitation.

This relationship was confirmed by a seminal 1996 study by economists Lant Pritchett and Lawrence Summers, who showed the dramatic effect that increases in incomes can have on health. Pritchett and Summers found a strong causative effect of income on infant mortality and demonstrated that, if the developing world’s growth rate had been 1.5 percentage points higher in the 1980s, half a million infant deaths would have been averted. The Free Market Foundation maintains that the private supply of competitive health-care services and the incremental extension of private funding is the most effective method of supplying high quality health care to the entire South African population.

Government should not be in the business of providing healthcare to all South Africans. Rather, government should devote its limited health budget to the supply of services to

the indigent, to purchase an increasing percentage of those services from private providers, and to allow and encourage the rapid growth of the private healthcare sector, enabling it to provide services to an increasing percentage of the population.’

Dr. Prinsen, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Public Law at the University of Free State, argued that ‘The National Health Insurance [NHI] need not be rushed until we tighten up loose ends.’

Last month, the National Health Insurance [NHI] Bill was passed by the National Assembly. From there, THE Bill would be sent to the National Council of Provinces [NCOP] and if also passed there, it will be signed into law by the president.

This may, however, still take years. Universal access to health care has long been envisioned by not only the Constitution, but also by the National Health

Act of 2003. The Bill aims to ensure that all South Africans have access to quality healthcare services and for the establishment of a fund which will be used to pay for almost all medical treatments from accredited providers, with rates to be determined by the state.

Private health insurers will only be able to pay for treatments, health products and services not covered by the fund. The Bill, however, has from the inception been contentious and has been fought against from the start.

A mere two weeks before its passing in the National Assembly, the South African Medical Association [SAMA] rejected the Bill in its current form. In spite of this, it will most probably become law in some shape or form.

It is thus pertinent to examine that which it espouses, National Health Insurance, as this concept is a noble one at its core – the achievement of a more equitable society in the context of access to healthcare.

The current two-tier system has not sufficiently catered for good quality healthcare for all.

It has precluded the poor or those without medical aid from accessing a large number of health professionals, services and facilities.

National Health Insurance

will establish a single pool of funding for private and public healthcare providers and will pay both on exactly the same basis while expecting the same standard of care from

the National Healthcare footing the bill. For South Africans who do have medical aid, the National Health Insurance may be a shock to the system.

monthly payments towards healthcare in addition to carrying a higher tax burden.

Once the National Health Insurance is implemented, medical aid schemes will not be able to offer any services offered by the National Health Insurance and will only be able to provide for 'complimentary or top-up cover'.

South Africans will be able to use free National Health Insurance cover for various healthcare needs and no co-payments will be charged. The Bill does provide for gap cover but the relevant section is greatly understood and interpreted as meaning that medical aid schemes will ease to operate as current members will be obligated to make use of their National Health Insurance.

Many concerns and critiques have been lobbied at the Bill. Thus far, satisfactory solutions have not been offered to all these problems. The National Health Insurance cannot be avoided but perhaps, for it to be beneficial to all and truly live up to its potential for betterment, it should not be rushed.

**Dr. Prinsen is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Public Law at the University of Free State.**

Dr. Prinsen, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Public Law at the University of Free State, argued that *'The National Health Insurance [NHI] need not be rushed until we tighten up loose ends.'*

them. For South Africans without medical aid or in lower income groups, the National Health Insurance will be beneficial in that it will allow these persons to consult private healthcare practitioners and make use of private healthcare facilities and practices with

Those accustomed to private care may have to settle for lower standards while they still paying for lower standards while still paying for a similar or higher fee. South Africans within a certain income bracket will still have to make mandatory





## Health

# THE NHI DEBATE IS throwing up misconceptions!

'The government has initiated a national quality improvement plan to address quality concerns in public and private healthcare', said Dr. Shisana

**T**he evidence suggests that the private sector is inefficient and unsustainable in the long run, while the National Health Insurance offers a cost-effective solution.

The National Health Insurance (NHI) is a topic of intense debate, but addressing factual inaccuracies is crucial. Such inaccuracies create doubts about the government's ability to effectively implement statutory Schedule 3 Public Entities, of which NHI is one. I will

describe this later.

To begin with, the NHI will be classified as a Schedule 3 Public Entity, similar to other reputable entities such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the Council of Geoscience, the Medical Research Council and the Agricultural Research Council. These have a proven track record of unqualified audits, and the NHI is expected to operate similarly.

According to National

Treasury, Schedule 3 entities are mandated to fulfil the government's specific economic or social responsibilities. They rely on government funding and have limited autonomy. This distinguishes them from Schedule 2 State-Owned Enterprises, such as Eskom and Denel, which are profit-driven and operate more independently.

Therefore, comparing the NHI to Schedule 2 entities is flawed.

Another misconception is that the NHI will merge the

public and private sectors, leading to the collapse of the private sector. However, as a Schedule 3A entity, the NHI will operate under the Public Finance Management Act, ensuring adherence to financial management principles.

The NHI Fund will accredit public- and private-sector facilities, reimbursing them for their services.

This will not impede the private sector from operating; it ensures that the NHI covers reimbursable services. Regardless of income, South Africans will

have access to services from both sectors if they meet the required quality standards.

The private sector's inefficiency and unsustainability make a compelling case for the NHI. Critics often claim that the private sector is more efficient, but evidence suggests otherwise. The sector is largely underused and this spare capacity can help to reduce overcrowding in the public sector. The Health Market Inquiry exposed the private health sector as neither competitive nor efficient.

Competition authorities found runaway costs and significant overuse without improvements in health outcomes.

Per-capita health expenditure in the private sector is much higher than in the public sector. The exorbitant costs stem from medical scheme administration, which accounts for 15% of expenses. In contrast, the NHI's administration costs are expected to be less than 3%. The private sector's inefficiency and unsustainability make a compelling case for the NHI.

Concerns have also been raised about the potential collapse of medical schemes under the NHI. However, medical scheme numbers and beneficiaries have declined without the NHI's influence. It is reported that some

employers no longer require compulsory medical scheme contributions, further jeopardising their sustainability.

Some individuals choose to pay only for hospital coverage, reducing the available funds for medical schemes. Under the NHI, the prepayment cover for medical schemes will be lower than what is paid to the NHI.

Medical scheme premiums are increasing above inflation rates, and by 2030 they are projected to consume about 30% of household income.

The current medical schemes are failing the public, judged by 45% of the population exhausting their benefits before the year ends, resulting in potentially dangerous underuse of essential health services and/or significant financial hardship.

The proposed changes in the NHI Bill will also benefit medical scheme beneficiaries by offering year-round coverage at a reduced cost, leading to better cost containment for healthcare.

## Question of quality

One of the arguments against implementing the NHI is the concern about healthcare quality.

The criticisms ignore the bill's clauses related to certification and accreditation. Implementing the NHI system, focusing on certification standards and accreditation norms, is

expected to improve the quality of health services. By requiring contracted establishments to meet minimum certification standards, the NHI aims to ensure that providers deliver high-quality care.

One significant measure under the NHI is the accreditation of providers for reimbursement from the NHI Fund. This accreditation is based on the certification status received by a provider. By linking reimbursement to certification, the NHI incentivises establishments to strengthen compliance and enhance the quality of their services.

It can achieve this through a rating system that assesses certified establishments based on performance, such as a "star" system indicating good, average or poor quality of care.

The implicit action is that the bill demands quality regulation in both the public and private sectors, which is new. Under the NHI, which aims to accredit healthcare providers and facilities, the quality of healthcare services is expected to improve.

## Historical context

As we analyse the current health system, we must not be blind to the historical context of systematic apartheid policies that have contributed to the existing challenges in the healthcare system that the NHI aims to address.

The shortage of doctors in the health system is not a recent issue. Coovadia and colleagues analysed the doctor-to-patient ratios in the 2009 Lancet journal and found that as early as 1940 there was a significant disparity in healthcare access. In the Cape Town area there was one doctor per 308 white individuals compared with one doctor for every 22,000 to 30,000 people in the reserves (predominantly black population). By 1946, the ratio was 1:2427, which improved to 1:1721 by 1976. By 1980, the report indicated that 40% of doctors worked in the private sector, which increased to more than 60% by 1990.

It is evident that the private sector predominantly caters to the privileged population, as highlighted in the statistics below:

**White: 77.7%;  
Indian/Asian: 45.1%;  
Coloured: 19.9%; and  
Black African: 9.3%  
(Statistics South  
Africa, 2021).**

Despite the challenges in accessing medical care, evidence suggests no significant difference in the perception of healthcare quality between the public and private sectors. For instance, studies have shown that 81% of patients using general practitioners (GPs) and 81% of households using public healthcare services reported being satisfied with the care received (M'bouaffou et al., 2022;



## The private sector's inefficiency and unsustainability make a compelling case for NHI

StatsSA, 2018).

However, it is essential to acknowledge that improvements are needed to satisfy the nearly 20% of patients dissatisfied with the services.

The notion that South Africa lacks funds to implement the NHI is misguided. Some of the countries that implemented NHI have far less than South Africa.

The government has initiated a national quality improvement plan to address quality concerns in public and private healthcare. This plan includes 418 Quality Learning Centres as of March 2023, covering 153 hospitals, 227 primary healthcare facilities and 38 emergency medical services.

The Office of Health Standards Compliance inspects and certifies the Ideal Clinic Model, and in

2021/22, 56% of the inspected clinics were deemed ideal. However, the Department of Health still needs to do more work to ensure all healthcare services meet high-quality standards.

### Cost complaints

The DA's complaints about NHI financing, particularly its argument that the NHI was never costed, seem to overlook crucial information. Treasury conducted a cost projection for the NHI in 2012, as outlined in the White Paper on NHI. According to the projection, Treasury estimated the cost for the NHI in the 2025/26 financial year to be R255.8-billion in 2010 prices, with an annual increase of 6.7%.

While it is old, it does indicate that costing has been done. It will be critical each year to prepare a budget for services to be funded.

It is important to note that the NHI's baseline funding is derived from the current health budget and is incorrect. It needs to be corrected to assume that the NHI requires zero-based funding. The public sector already contributes the bulk of the R255.8-billion towards the NHI, which excludes

various state subsidies provided to the private sector, such as medical scheme contributions from national, provincial and local government, and state entities, as well as the rebates currently offered to medical scheme contributors.

Therefore, the notion that South Africa lacks funds to implement the NHI is misguided. Some of the countries that implemented NHI have far less than South Africa, such as Thailand (3,7%), Mexico (6,3%), Columbia (7,3%) and Indonesia (3,7%). The issue lies in allocative inefficiency rather than a lack of funds. It is essential to address and optimise the allocation of existing resources to ensure the effective implementation of the NHI and improve healthcare access for all South Africans.

Resistance from some health professionals and medical scheme administrators is a phenomenon that has been around for a while. In the past, some doctors and hospital administrators voluntarily enforced apartheid-era segregation, as former apartheid health minister Rina Venter found. While some health professionals express concerns about the NHI, others, such as the South African Medical Trade Union, support it as a way to address the flaws of the two-tier healthcare system.

Similar resistance was observed when the British health minister introduced the National Health Service, but it was eventually overcome. It is important to listen to doctors, considering their concern for patients and potential resistance to change.

In conclusion, the discourse surrounding the NHI should focus on accurate information and a comprehensive understanding of its potential impact. As a Schedule 3 Public Entity, the NHI will function within the framework of the Public Finance Management Act and will not hinder the private sector's operation.

The evidence suggests that the private sector is inefficient and unsustainable in the long run, while the NHI offers a cost-effective solution.

By addressing historical disparities, improving healthcare quality and using existing funding, the NHI has the potential to transform healthcare in South Africa for the better. It is essential to consider the concerns raised by health professionals but also to distinguish between genuine patient-centred concerns and resistance to change.

**Dr Olive Shisana is an honorary professor at the University of Cape Town and special adviser to President Cyril Ramaphosa.**



### **COSATU NATIONAL GENDER STRUCTURE CALLS FOR Equal pay for work of equal value in football**

**- The remuneration package for Banyana Banyana is  
worrisome for workers under COSATU**

Banyana Banyana team (staff and players) in jubilant mood ahead of FIFA Women's  
World Cup 2023 in New Zealand/Australia

Workers in Gauteng marched to the Human Rights Commission offices at Brampak appealing for the Commissioners to sanction an investigation on the ill-treatment of Banyana Banyana footballers ahead of their participation in the FIFA World Cup tournament in Australia and New Zealand penciled for July/August 2023.

This comes after the South African Football Federation [SAFA] did not handle the contract matter with the players ahead of their send-off games against Botswana at Tsakane stadium properly in which players demanded that their tournament contracts must include all related payments and bonuses. But SAFA argued otherwise. This resulted in the boycotting of the match

by the players.

Banyana's pressing demand prior to their flight to Wellington/Canberra was better remuneration, proper apparel, decent nutrition and safe playing field.

Workers organized by COSATU and its affiliates expressed their discomfort on the manner the South African Football Association [SAFA] was handling the

protests by the women football squad in relation to remuneration packages for the FIFA Women World Cup to be held at New Zealand and Australia for the period July/August 2023.

"Ensuring that the work done by women and men is valued fairly and ending pay discrimination is essential to achieving gender equality. However, pay inequality



continues to persist and gender pay gaps in some instances have stagnated or even increased. As unequal remuneration is a subtle chronic problem, it is difficult to overcome without a clear understanding of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value," said Emelia Maphakela Cosatu National Gender Secretary

"SAFA has never treated Bafana Bafana they way they illtreat Banyana Banyana and we call upon the Human Rights Commission to investigate the matter. Equal pay for work of the same value must be seen to be applied

in football, especially when it comes to national teams representing South Africa", emphasized Maphakela

The demand for equal pay is at the heart of the ILO's Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100).

The African women champions are scheduled to take on Sweden, Italy and Argentina at Wellington, in New Zealand. South Africa won the Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) in 2022 to become African champions and qualify for the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023.

It will be a second successive Women's World Cup for Banyana

Banyana after France 2019, where they went out in the group phase and failing to record a single point.

The tournament will be jointly hosted by Australia and New Zealand, and is scheduled to take place from 20 July to 20 August 2023.

Italy are looking as old favourites and with new talent to help claim their place at the top table of international football. Argentina has not lost any games this year so far! And they have the best crowd.

Meanwhile Sweden are ranked number three [3] in the FIFA women's ranking and that is a huge hurdle for Banyana Banyana to

jump. It will be the toughest women's world cup. The USA is number one of FIFA Women statistics released, followed by Germany at number two [2], England is number four [4], France is number five [5], Spain is number [6], Canada is number [7], Brazil is number [8], Netherlands is number [9] and Australia is number [10].

South Africa is number fifty-four [54] and ranked number three [3] in Africa, with Nigeria ranked number one [1] followed by Cameroon at number two [2]. USA are the defending Champions.

**Best wishes to the footballers!**



Members of SACCAWU declaring their displeasure on how Banyana Banyana are ill-treated by SAFA



## COSATU GENDER STRUCTURES EXTEND A HAND of help to various communities in South Africa

COSATU Gauteng donating blankets and dignity packs at Ndawo Yakho Centre in Yeoville, Johannesburg

Every year on Mandela Day citizens are encouraged to impact their communities through charitable work in any facet they can to honour the life of a man who fought for human rights in South Africa and around the world.

In November 2009, the UN General Assembly declared 18 July Nelson Mandela International Day in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom.

And the UN Assembly asked all global citizens, What can you do in 67 minutes as a small gesture of solidarity with humanity and a step towards a global movement for good?

This year, the Nelson Mandela Foundation initiated a global commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day

under the theme: "Climate, Food and Solidarity", our call to action is "It is in your

hands.", along with a network of global partners who will be planting trees, and resourcing home-based/community food gardens across the world.

The Foundation said 'global celebration will follow the sun as it traverses the globe (East to West), with networks participating on the 18th of July 2023.'

COSATU affiliated trade unions joined numerous volunteers that commemorated Mandela Day and answered Nelson Mandela's call to, Take Action, Inspire Change.

Mandela was a revolutionary human rights advocate, who dedicated his life to serving communities across the globe. He believed that, What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what

difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Nelson

Mandela's birth in South Africa, COSATU Gender Coordinators organized various Mandela Day activities in previously disadvantaged communities.

**In Gauteng,** Gender Coordinators from various affiliated trade unions took their shopstewards leave to put a smile on the faces of abused women and children at Ndawo Yakho Women's and Children's Home in Yeoville, Johannesburg.

According to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities 'When a woman has been subjected to gender-based violence, it has short and long-term consequences for her physical, mental and

sexual and reproductive health. Injuries, unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and gynaecological disorders, as well as anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and even self-harm are only some of the impacts of

violence that survivors may face. For example, survivors of intimate partner violence have a twofold increased risk of undergoing an induced abortion, and are 50 per cent more likely to have a sexually transmitted infection or HIV.

Gender-based violence is not only a violation of individual women's and girls' rights. The impunity enjoyed by perpetrators, and the fear generated by their actions, has an effect on all women and girls. It also takes a toll on a global level, stunting the contributions women and girls can make to international development, peace and progress.'

COSATU Gender Coordinators in the province donated blankets and dignity packs to the residence of Ndawo Yakho and shared lunch with the women and children at the home.

The motivational address was delivered by the former 2nd Deputy President of the



## Gender Agenda



**COSATU Western Cape Gender Coordinators taking care of families during Mandela Day**



**POPCRU donated a brand new wheelchair to Comrade Mlungisi Khoza, a POPCRU member at Inanda SAPS**



**COSATU Limpopo Mandela Day Activity 2 - Fetakgomo Local, Komane Disability Centre**



**COSATU Limpopo Mandela Day Activity 1-Cleaning and plastering at Robert Mbulungeni Secondary School in Vhembe, Mutale Local**

Federation and SACCAWU President, Comrade Louisah Thipe.

*"Gender based violence and its negative effects knows no social, economic or national boundaries. Worldwide, an estimated one in three women will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime. We appreciate the revolutionary task performed by welfare homes such as Ndawo Yakho. We urge workers from all affiliated to lobby potential donors to help institutions such as Ndawo Yakho to restore justice to victims of gender based violence,"* elaborated Thipe.

Thipe said *"Gender-based violence is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. Gender-based violence undermines the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims, yet it remains shrouded in a culture of silence."*

**In Western Cape,** COSATU Western Cape Provincial Gender Coordinators participated in the Mandela Day activities by collaborating with Meals on Wheels, a prominent

organization dedicated to social welfare, to address the pressing issue of poverty-induced hunger.

COSATU Western Cape Gender structure said, *'This joint initiative marked the International Mandela Day celebrations, where hot meals were prepared and generously distributed to impoverished communities in Gugulethu, Sweet Home, and Samora. This act of kindness not only provided sustenance but also served as an inspiring reminder that collective efforts can make a significant impact in alleviating hunger and improving lives.'*

*The collaboration between COSATU and Meals on Wheels to provide hot meals on International Mandela Day exemplifies the power of collective action in combating hunger. By strengthening this partnership, expanding our outreach efforts, engaging volunteers and donors, promoting nutritional education, and advocating for policy changes, together we can continue making a significant impact in the lives of the needy. Together play a pivotal role in the ongoing*

*fight against hunger, offering hope and nourishment to those who need it the most."*

**In KwaZulu-Natal,** POPCRU's 2nd Deputy President Chakale Mahlatsi said *"Today, POPCRU is in Inanda, at a community outside Durban with an estimated population of 158 619 people, yet with only 1 police station servicing it. It is one of those communities frequently reported on by the Minister of Police as it relates to crime. Yet, there are many young people here who aspire for good future prospects, and need all the motivation despite the harsh conditions they find themselves. POPCRU is precisely here to motivate them by donating school shoes and food packages as part of their activities on this annual Nelson Mandela day. We are hopeful that this contribution will go a long way in improving the lives of African children."*

*We remain inspired by Madiba's leadership and we remember him as a revolutionary and a man of integrity, who spent his entire life fighting against oppression, defended and*

*championed for human rights and reconciliation."*

*Mahlatsi concluded that "We remain proud of his contribution not only in this country but in the continent and the world. He remains a people's hero and a giant and we will forever remain indebted to him and to all those who were the architects of a democratic South Africa. Madiba remains a symbol of hope for the oppressed."*

**In Limpopo,** COSATU Limpopo collaborated with community structures to clean Komane Komane Disability Centre in the Fetakgomo Local municipality. COSATU donated a Jojo tank, cleaning and gardening equipment, mattresses and the participants further painted the main building of the centre. The other activity took place at Robert Mbulungeni Secondary School in Vhembe, Mutale Local with Local Tribal Authority, Musanda Nemutanzhela (Musanda Thondoni), PEC members, Local Cllr and community members engaging in cleaning and plastering of two classrooms.



# INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE ADOPTS new apprenticeship standard, among other key decisions

ILO Director-General, Gilbert F. Hounbo visited the Minh Anh Khoai Chau garment factory in Hung Yen province to ensure the economic potential of supply chains goes hand in hand with decent work, labour rights and safety and health

**t**he International Labour Conference closed with the adoption of a new recommendation on quality apprenticeships. Delegates also passed resolutions on a just transition and labour protection, as well as adopting the standards report and the programme and budget, and a resolution on Belarus.

Delegates attending

the 111th International Labour Conference (ILC) have adopted a new Recommendation on Quality Apprenticeships.

The new labour standard aims to support “opportunities for people of all ages to skill, reskill and upskill continuously” in rapidly changing labour markets. It provides a clear definition of apprenticeships,

specifies aspirational standards for quality apprenticeships, including rights and protection for apprentices.

The conclusions of the General Discussion Committee on a Just Transition were adopted. They stressed the imperative need to advance a just transition to achieve social justice, eradicate

poverty and support decent work. Delegates endorsed the ILO Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies as a basis for action and the central reference for policymaking.

Delegates adopted the conclusions of the Recurrent Discussion Committee on Labour Protection.



The adopted resolution charts a way forward towards more inclusive, adequate and effective labour protection for all workers, and creates a basis for developing a plan of action.

The Conference adopted a resolution on Belarus, under Article 33 of the ILO Constitution. The resolution aims to secure compliance by the Government of Belarus with the recommendations of an ILO Commission of Inquiry, which examined the observance by the Government of Belarus of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) and the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98).

The plenary sitting approved the report of the Committee on the Application of Standards (CAS), which is a core supervisory body of the ILO's standards system. The CAS examined 24 individual country cases related to the observance of ILO Conventions.

It considered the

Committee of Experts' General Survey on Achieving gender equality at work. In their Outcome of the discussion, the tripartite members of the Committee highlighted the urgent need to eliminate all forms of discrimination in employment and occupation, guarantee full and effective maternity protection and ensure the right of workers with family responsibilities to engage in employment.

During the Conference, 13 ratifications of International Labour Conventions were registered, mainly in respect of the recently adopted convention against violence and harassment in the world of work (C190) and conventions concerning occupational and safety and health.

The Conference adopted the ILO Programme and Budget for 2024/25. The document and resolution reaffirmed the commitment expressed by all the ILO's tripartite constituents to "combat all forms of discrimination and exclusion on any ground for the benefit of all", while recognizing the "different

positions expressed on some issues".

Sixteen Heads of State and Government, as well as representatives of other UN and multilateral bodies and workers and employers organizations, attended a high-level World of Work Summit, held between 14 and 15 June under the theme of "Social Justice for All". Participants discussed a range of social justice issues including the proposal for a Global Coalition for Social Justice. High level panels looked at inequalities and informality, creating equal opportunities, lifelong learning and skills development, social protection, and the ways to advance trade, sustainable development, and human and labour rights.

On 12 June the conference marked World Day Against Child Labour. At a time when child labour rates are increasing, ILO Director-General, Gilbert F. Houngbo, called on the international community to support greater social justice and step up the fight against child labour.

Speaking at the ILC

closing ceremony, Director-General Houngbo, told delegates, "You should be proud of what you have accomplished. Your commitment to the mandate of the ILO, your skilled negotiations, your careful diplomacy, resulted in the adoption of several significant documents at this Conference."

"As we continue the ILO's long journey to fulfil its mandate, we heard resounding and unequivocal support for a Global Coalition for Social Justice. Heads of State, Ministers of Labour and leaders of employers' and workers' organizations recognized the Global Coalition as an initiative that is timely and essential. We must now build on this momentum," he said.

The 111th International Labour Conference, was attended by around 5,000 delegates representing governments, workers and employers from the ILO's 187 Member States. The Conference was held from 5 – 16 June 2023, at the UN Palais des Nations in Geneva.



## SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS MARCH against socio-economic crisis

Duncan Luvuno, NUM health and safety national chairperson Susan Khumalo, IndustriALL Sub Saharan Africa regional co-chair and SACTWU 1st deputy president leading COSATU march in Johannesburg

**S**outh African workers fed up with corruption, crime, high levels of unemployment, rising inflation and gender-based violence downed tools yesterday in a national day of action on 6 July.

Workers from all over the country participated in a protected strike organized by the Congress of South African Trade Unions

(COSATU). IndustriALL affiliates, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the Southern African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (SACTWU) were present at the marches. The unions are also affiliated to COSATU.

A section 77 strike certificate was issued by the National Economic Development and Labour Council NEDLAC. This

certificate guarantees that all workers can join the strike without facing dismissals. Different parts of the country had streets filled with workers demanding an end to the social, economic, and political crisis which has worsened poverty and inequality.

In Cape Town workers marched to parliament to hand over a memorandum

demanding that government and the private sector stop the attack on collective bargaining, prevent corruption and crime, reduce high interest rates, stop job losses and privatization.

André Kriel, SACTWU general secretary, addressed workers outside parliament: "We are facing a dire unemployment crisis and we call on the



government to formulate policies to address this. Gender-based violence is on the rise, our government has ratified ILO Convention 190, but ratification is not enough, government must take active steps to implement this ratification and end gender-based violence in the workplace.”

In Johannesburg, workers marched to the offices of the department of employment and labour, the South African Local Government Authority, South Africa Human Rights Council, and the Provincial Premier with similar demands.

The workers want better crime prevention and anti-corruption measures, improved service delivery by municipalities to end the water crisis, and an energy strategy to stop the ongoing electricity cuts.

According to the South African Police Service (SAPS), most murders occur during robberies in people’s homes, and most crimes that include robbery and assault are increasing. Additionally, corruption continues to hamper economic growth and development.

Decent jobs were under threat after 21 000 jobs were lost from January to March 2023 bringing unemployment figures to over 10 million, according to Statistics South Africa. Workers at the marches said most jobs were becoming precarious, and the increasing cost of living left them in worse off positions as the value of their wages declined.

**Duncan Luvuno, NUM health and safety national chairperson said:**

*“Workers are beginning*

*to see that they have the power to change the narrative by going back to the streets to fight for their demands and are not only relying on boardroom negotiations. Through the streets workers are realizing that they are their own liberators as some of their campaigns including for the national health insurance are becoming a reality.”*

Despite many laws and policies including the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, and the Domestic Violence Amendment Act, and the ratification of Convention 190, gender-based violence and harassment continues to make the country one of most unsafe places for working women.

Crime statistics state that

10 512 women were raped from January to March this year. Further, women face sexual harassment, and some have been killed at work. Homes are not safe either with domestic violence common.

Presenting the COSATU petition to the Department of Employment and Labour, Susan Khumalo, IndustriALL Sub Saharan Africa regional co-chair and SACTWU 1st deputy president said:

*“Gender-based violence continues to be an atrocity against women. But as unions, we would like the government and the police to play their part in ending the scourge through prosecution and imprisonment of perpetrators. Employers should also make workplaces safer environments for women workers.”*



## THE 2023 ICN CONGRESS concludes in Canada

DENOSA delegation at the International Council of Nurses (ICN)  
2023 Congress held in Montreal, Canada

**T**he International Council of Nurses (ICN) 2023 Congress, held over five days from 1 July 2023 in Montreal, Canada, was a resounding success as representatives from national nurses associations (NNA) in 130 countries and nurse leaders as well as practicing nurses gathered heads to bring about real solutions to the challenges experienced by the world's 28 million nursing workforce post- the COVID-19 global pandemic.

South Africa was represented by the DENOSA contingent led by its President, Simon Hlungwani, 1st Deputy President, Professor

Mavis Mulaudzi, and General Secretary, Kwena Manamela and DENOSA leaders and nurse leaders from various structures as well as practicing nurses.

Also present from South Africa were Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Dr Nonhlanhla Makhanya from the Department of Health, representatives from the South African Nursing Council (SANC).

This year's congress was focused on the safety of healthcare workers as priority for patient safety, support and the wellbeing of nurses, innovation, as well as the need for the increase in the production of nurses globally.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), through its Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus, informed the Day 3 of the Congress virtually that the world's health body will produce the second State of the World Nursing report, which will show the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and how the world can rebuild the global nursing workforce.

The migration of nurses from under-developed and developing countries to the, owing to the global nursing workforce shortage, to the developed countries also featured prominently at this congress.

Minister of Health in Canada, Jean Yves Duclos, affirmed that the issue of global shortage of nurses and the impact of international recruitment of nurses from low-income countries to high-income was featured in the recent G7 meeting. "We can't rely on international recruitment. We have to do our share by training by training and supporting our existing nurses," he told the congress. He said the G7 meeting committed to strive to be self-sufficient in producing nurses.

**The Congress  
concluded on 5 July  
2023.**





# NEHAWU LIMPOPO MARCHES

## against union bashing by management at workplaces and acts of corruption

Members of NEHAWU marching on the streets of Polokwane

**W**orkers in Limpopo organized under NEHAWU took to the streets of Polokwane on the 23rd of June to protest, amongst others, against union bashing by management at workplaces and acts of corruption in government. Nehawu members held a night vigil at premier Stan Mathabatha's offices on the 23rd June 2023, calling on him to get rid of MEC of Health, Dr. Ramathuba. NEHAWU 'accused her of running down the department, hiring young hospital managers who undermined key staff members, failing to fill funded vacancies and protecting people who rigged job interviews'.

**Moses Maubane, NEHAWU Limpopo Provincial Secretary, said, "NEHAWU Limpopo maintained that seven shopstewards at the Pietersburg**

*hospital were involved in a frivolous suspension by the management of the institution. This demonstrated a clear indication of maladministration, poor governance by the CEO, who is bell-bent on silencing and intimidating our members. As NEHAWU we demand withdrawal of the suspension on workers because they were intimidated for being at the forefront of exposing the rot at the hospital. We call on the MEC of Health to institute an investigation at the institution and place the CEO on suspension".*

*"We call on the MEC of Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba to be sacked by the Premier, Hon Chupu Mathabatha and the Acting HOD, Dr. Dombo to be suspended." "We give the Premier Seven [7] days to act", reiterated Maubane. Limpopo Health MEC, Dr Phophi*

Ramathuba and others MECs were participating at the South AfricanAidsconferenceinDurban when worker's memorandum was received by the Premier at his office. Meanwhile, the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union structures celebrated the 36th Anniversary since the formation of the union which has a membership of 276,000, the largest public sector union in the country which organizes State, Health, Education and Welfare workers.

**Addressing NEHAWU Mpumalanga Provincial Executive Committee, President Mike Shingange, said "...the national union appreciates the role played by our shopstewards, who are always our first line of defense. Some of these shopstewards are suspended and dismissed as part of union bashing by the employer. We must all increase**

*the spirit of solidarity, otherwise we will all be finished by bosses. Let us support one another regardless of the sector we are employed at.*

*We must close ranks and defend the base, which means shopstewards must assist each other and resolve on issues affecting our members in the workplaces. We must organize our members who are not belonging to any Branch. We must improve on holding workplace meetings, locate all disgruntled workers, recruit them, organize them and offer quality membership services to them".*

**Happy 36th birthday to the Fearless National Union, NEHAWU. NEHAWU was established on the 27th of June 1987.**



# **‘NATIONALIZATION OF the Emergency Medical Services Sector must take place now’-SAEPU convenes Provincial Congresses to strengthen worker control principle**

Newly elected SAEPU Provincial leaders at the Hemingways Guest House & Conference Centre in King William's Town

**T**his year marks the 17th Anniversary since the establishment of the South African Emergency Personnel's Union to organize Emergency Personnel across the country.

The union was legally registered with the Department of Labour on 19 February 2008 to represent the aspirations and the interests of workers in the EMS sector personnel's such as Paramedics, Fire Fighters, Emergency Care

Practitioners/Personnel.

Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and North West were some of the first provinces which held their Provincial Congresses in terms of the Constitution of the union.

SAEPU convened its congresses aiming to nationalize the EMS sector, create conducive working for all the emergency workers having to face serious challenges of muggings as and when they attended to emergency scenes in

communities, being found to be buffer zones between gangsters to save lives and experiencing reluctance by law enforcement agencies to escort them in warring squatter camps or residential areas to assist the victims.

SAEPU KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Congress was held on the 10th June at the Coastlands hotel in Durban, under the Theme; "We Fight What You Fear", and elected its own leaders to lead the province.

Other substantive issues dealt with by workers were the issue on attacks on EMS workers, calculations and payments of overtime and also education qualifications for emergency service workers.

*"Elected leaders would be expected to deliver on the mandate of workers to promote the interests of the union, to organize recruitment campaigns at various workplaces, administer funds for*



## Affiliates

the benefit of members through various sector programmer such training on conciliation, mediation, arbitration to defend the members in Councils sanctioned by the employer. We want to strengthen our legal assistance to the members in relation to their employment and also engage at the level of COSATU as our federation for socio-economic campaigns for the benefit of workers in general," said SAEPU President, Mpho Mpogeng.

Mpogeng said, "The Provincial Congresses came as a result of having completed to revive Branches within SAEPU and delegates from these

structures formed partner the elective Congresses".

### **SAEPU Newly elected Free State Provincial Office Bearers are:**

- Provincial Chairperson- Moiloa TT
- Provincial Deputy Chairperson- Mosethe M.C
- Provincial Secretary- Tsetse E.T
- Provincial Deputy Secretary- Mgcengane N
- Provincial Treasurer- Motumi M.O
- Provincial Organizer- Matebesi T.R
- Provincial Gender Convener- Tolo L.J

### **SAEPU Newly elected Eastern Cape Provincial Office Bearers are:**

- Provincial Chairperson- Norushu M
- Provincial Deputy Chairperson- Ntozini M
- Provincial Secretary- Ndonga P
- Provincial Deputy Secretary- Lufele S
- Provincial Treasurer- Bholilizwe N.F
- Provincial Organizer- Mdandalaza F
- Provincial Gender Convener- Majeke L

COSATU Provinces congratulated SAEPU Provinces for successful Provincial

Congresses as part and parcel of deepening class consciousness in the EMS sector, strengthening working class solidarity to resolve workplace contradictions in the current conjuncture and advancing Socialism to eradicate exploitation of workers by bosses across all provinces.

'COSATU Eastern Cape congratulates SAEPU Eastern Cape for convening a vibrant worker's parliament', said Gura Mkhawuleli Maleki.

### **Forward with the struggle of Emergency Medical Personnel!**



Delegates at SAEPU Mpumalanga Provincial Congress held at eMalahleni



# NUM REACHED A 7% SALARY INCREMENT AT ESKOM

NUM signed a 3-year wage agreement with power utility, Eskom

**t**he National Union of Mine Workers (NUM) as well as the other unions organising at Eskom, such as NUMSA and Solidarity signed a 3-year wage agreement with power utility, Eskom during the month of June 2023 after a series of negotiations at Woodmead of Sandton.

Olehile Kgware, NUM Eskom Chief Negotiator and Khangela Baloyi, NUM Energy Sector Coordinator confirmed that 'we confirmed that we have signed after workers have us a mandate to settle. We express our sincere gratitude to our members at Eskom for the manner in

which they behaved during the negotiation period".

### On Salaries

Eskom shall increase salaries of all permanent employees employed in Task Grades T04-T13 on the terms and conditions below;

### Increase: 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

The salary shall be calculated as an across-the-board increase of 7%. the increase will be based on an employee's basic salary as at 30 June 2023 and will be implemented in terms of Eskom's remuneration principles. Increase: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

The salary shall be calculated as an across-the-board increase of 7%. the increase will be based on an employee's basic salary as at 30 June 2024 and will be implemented in terms of Eskom's remuneration principles.

### Increase: 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

The salary shall be calculated as an across-the-board increase of 7%. the increase will be based on an employee's basic salary as at 30 June 2024 and will be implemented in terms of Eskom's remuneration principles.

On Housing Allowance Eskom shall increase the

housing allowance by 7% per month for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, 7% per month for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 and 7% for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

### On Once-off taxable payment

Eskom shall pay a once off taxable payment of R10 000 to all permanent employees employed in Task Grades T04-T13 for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

On Reduction of load shedding, Kgware and Baloyi said "NUM welcomes the improvement in the Eskom generation fleet.



## Affiliates

*Generation Executive Bheki Nxumalo must be allowed space to operate without interference”.*

*“We urge Eskom Board to scrap the position of COO”, alluded Kgware and Baloyi.*

The Employer, Eskom confirmed that “...the organization and recognized trade unions have reached an agreement at its Central Bargaining Council. The parties agreed on a 7% salary increase for all non-managerial employees over a 3-year period, effective from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2026. In addition, the parties agreed to a 7% increase in the housing allowance over the three year period and a once-off taxable payment of R10

000 for the first two years”. Caleb Cassim, Eskom acting Group CEO said “This collective agreement will go a long way in stabilizing our organization by providing Eskom with sufficient space and time to collaboratively work together to urgently address the most pressing challenges. Eskom expresses gratitude to all the parties for their commitment to this process and for placing Eskom and the interests of all South Africans first”.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) has congratulated its militant affiliate, the National Union of Mine Workers (NUM) as well as the

other unions organising at Eskom, NUMSA and Solidarity, for securing a 7% 3 year wage agreement for all Eskom employees. This agreement includes a 7% 3 year housing allowance increase and a once off R10 000 cash payment for levels T04-T13 employees. Solly Phetoe said, “This is a significant increase from the initial meagre offer from the employer that would have left workers worse off and seen their wages and ability to take care of their families being eroded by inflation.

COSATU applauds the discipline, determination and unity that NUM and the other unions have shown in defence of the right of

*Eskom employees to earn a living wage. The unity shown by NUM, NUMSA and Solidarity echoes the call of Karl Marx and the founding vision of COSATU for workers of the world to unite.*

*If we are to ensure that Eskom is stabilised and rebuilt into the world class electricity utility it once was and that the economy needs it to be quickly, then we need to ensure that Eskom’s employees’ rights are protected and that they are highly motivated as they work flat out to ramp up maintenance and end loadshedding”.*

*“This 3 year wage agreement is a positive step forward in that regard,” concluded Phetoe.■*



## **SACTWU HELD ITS PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES** in Eastern Cape, Gauteng and Western Cape

## Affiliates

**T**he Southern African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (SACTWU) which organizes workers in the clothing, textile, leather, footwear, distribution and allied industries in the Western Cape, held its Provincial Congress in June 2023 under the Theme "United Together, Let's Build SACTWU, Our Industry, Our Country and Our Continent".

The Youth Month is a time dedicated to honoring the vibrant spirit and resilience of South African youth, and SACTWU 2nd Deputy President, Sicelo Gumede 'reminded the workers parliament of the oath they took when they availed themselves to become worker leaders, with their sole objective to uphold all labour legislations in order to protect and serve the workers and defend their hard-fought labour rights'.

*"SACTWU Western Cape Congress comes at the time when thousands of the members in the leather tanning sector in South Africa have just celebrated the wage settlement of 7.25% increment, with effect from 1 July 2023. This new collective agreement was concluded under the auspices of the leather industry bargaining council, following various rounds of negotiations held in April up until late May this year, with the South*

*African Tanning Employers Organisation (SATEO)",* said Gumede.

"The agreement also includes the reduction of learnership periods by 6 months, from the previously applicable 12 months. This means that workers on learnerships will earn the qualified rate after 6 months, instead of currently a year later.

The new collective agreement also provides for an expansion of this sector's Family Responsibility Leave provision, to include "... when the employee's biological grandparent is sick...".

SACTWU Western Cape Congress was graced by the presence of international federation's leaders such as Comrade Wolfgang Lamb, a member of the Executive Committee of IG Metal and Vice President of IndustriALL Global Union Europe

SACTWU General Secretary, Andre Kriel presented the entire delegation with gifts that were locally manufactured at one of the local companies.

### **SACTWU Western Cape elective Congress leadership are;**

- Provincial Chairperson-Melvin Oliphant
- Provincial Deputy Chairperson-Anneline Basson
- Provincial Secretary-Deon Simons

- Provincial Treasurer-Portia Mamase
- Provincial Organizer-Xolisile Guwa
- Provincial Organizer-Jane Kastoor
- SACTWU Gauteng elective Congress leadership are;
- Provincial Chairperson-Ntokozo Mkhwanazi
- Provincial Deputy Chairperson-Patrick Lubisi
- Provincial Secretary-Oupa Hade
- Provincial Treasurer-Rachel Makwela
- Provincial Organizer-Thabo Mthwari

Meanwhile, André Kriel, SACTWU General Secretary said "SACTWU participated in the IndustriALL Global Union, the international trade union federation of which SACTWU is an affiliate, impressive Mid-Term Policy Conference (MTPC) in Cape Town. This MTPC was attended by over 600 delegates, representing 50 million manufacturing sector union members in 140 countries. It was great to participate in this important event. Its outcomes will help to improve working conditions for millions of workers all over the world".

Kriel said "The meeting called for the withdrawal of Russian troops and for the restoration of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and to campaign for solidarity,

social justice, and peace for Ukrainian unions. More than 47 per cent of Ukraine's energy supplies have been damaged by Russian forces since the invasion began in February 2022. Leisa Semeniaka from Ukraine union Atomprofsilka told delegates of the enormous suffering of Ukrainian workers and people. Workers' rights are also being curtailed by newly introduced laws that violate European labour laws and ILO Conventions 87 (freedom of association and protection of the right to organize) and 98 (right to organize and collective bargaining).

The executive committee meeting highlighted the global hotspots of workers' rights and trade union violations which include Afghanistan where there are murders of women and violations of women workers and human rights by the Taliban government, and Belarus where trade unionists have been imprisoned. The meeting adopted a resolution for the release of secretary general Kim Jun-young, that strongly condemns the violent suppression of workers by the Korean government and the police, their anti-union and pro-corporate behaviour, and POSCO for violating union rights".





### NEHAWU HOLDS PROVINCIAL CONGRESSES IN 2023

Delegates paying tribute to members and workers in general who passed on in the period under review

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (NEHAWU) commenced with the holding of Regional Congresses across all provinces, with Yure Mdyogolo, Mike Tauyatswala, West Coast Winelands, King Sabata Dalindyebo, John Taolo, Ikapa North, Tlokwe, Kennedy Phalannndwa, Max Madlingozi, Arshal Thembanani Dyushu and Nkangala Regions having kick-started the workers' parliaments.

All these Provincial Congresses are held under the theme "Strengthen Workplace Organisation, Deepen Class Consciousness and Advance Internationalism".

"NEHAWU Regional Congresses are held in terms of the Union's Constitution, Chapter 9 which regulates how Region are established and demarcated to function in

line with the decisions of the Central Executive Committee. The Regions are established to give effect to the aims and objectives of the union and are better placed to lead in recruitment of members [a person who pays membership fees as prescribed subscriptions due to the union and is in good standing in terms of the Constitution] and promote the interests of the members within its jurisdiction, to supervise the affairs of the workplaces and branches [workplaces wherein there are 50+ more members and officially launched by the NEHAWU] wherein the union organizes and also act on the decisions and policies of the constitutional structures of the union", explained Zola Saphetha, NEHAWU General Secretary

"Regions Congresses are convened in terms of Chapter 12 governing the powers

of the Regional structures which, amongst others, are to implement the decisions of the above structures, elect Regional Office Bearers, consider and ratify Regional reports to the Congress, manage financial resources of the regional structure, liaise with Provincial and national office bearers on decisions on decisions of the union, formulate policy propositions to the Provincial Congress and other upper structures and also elected Regional Office Bearers such as the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Treasurer".

"Regional Congresses are scheduled to be attended by delegates from each branch of the union in good standing, who have voting powers and may stand to be elected if they are in good standing as members", reiterated Saphetha

Saphetha reiterated that 'The congresses will assess the work of the organisation in the period under review and including electing a new leadership. Furthermore, the congresses will analyse the global balance of forces, the political situation in the country, and the socio-economic realities facing the working class and the poor especially in the post COVID-19 pandemic era and the crippling effects of austerity measures by the government of the day.'

COSATU has congratulated all the elected Regional Office Bearers and looks forward to strengthening the organization on the ground as the federation is building vibrant COSATU Locals in 2023.

#### Newly elected Kopano Regional Office Bearers:

- Regional Chairperson - Cde Lybro Mavhandu

## Affiliates

- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde Unice Temo
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Oscar Mashao
- Regional Secretary - Cde Matome Phooko
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Mosley Molepo

### **Newly elected Kopano Regional Office Bearers:**

- Regional Chairperson - Cde Keatlegile Ramatong
- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde Mmopedi Bochedi
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Tumelo Dlamini
- Regional Secretary - Cde Mohau Mahalotsa
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Tshepo Thulo

### **Newly Elected Gert Sibande Regional Office Bearers:**

- Regional Chairperson - Cde Mduduzi Mazibuko
- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde Lucky Nkosi
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Petty Nkosi
- Regional Secretary - Cde Jimmy Motha
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Lindiwe Nkwanyana

### **Newly Elected Arshal Thembani Dyushu Regional Office Bearers:**

- Regional Chairperson - Cde Collin Williams
- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde Joe Mgijima
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Fezeka Matiwane
- Regional Secretary - Cde

- Thando Ngcongco
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Loretza Moloto

### **Newly elected Max Madlingozi Regional Office Bearers:**

- Regional Chairperson - Cde Nosipho Sizani-Leve
- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde Phiwokuhle Adonis
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Nomonde Vellem
- Regional Secretary - Cde Lulamile Sihunu
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Sifundo Daweti

### **Newly elected Mafikeng Regional Office Bearers:**

- Regional Chairperson - Cde Godfrey Mandubo
- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde Baatile Tsie
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Kebaabetswe Chelane
- Regional Secretary - Cde Samuel Ramabodu
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Kealeboga Dikobe

### **Newly Elected Ikapa North 4th Regional Office Bearers:**

- Regional Chairperson - Cde Nomakhosi Mpetha
- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde Masixole Bobo
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Denzille Rossouw
- Regional Secretary - Cde Zukisani Mabengu
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Nokuthula Mtwazi

### **Newly elected Kennedy Phalanndwa Regional Office Bearers:**

- Regional Chairperson - Cde Vincent Rasila
- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde Risimati Nkolele
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Grace Phuluwa
- Regional Secretary - Cde Silas Rangolo
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Daphney Makhado

### **Newly Elected Durban Regional Office Bearers:**

- Regional Chairperson - Cde Sibongiseni Skhosana
- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde Amanda Sibisi
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Nontando Mzobe
- Regional Secretary - Cde Prince Mthalane
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Linda Nzama

### **Newly Elected Nkangala Regional Office Bearers:**

- Regional Chairperson - Cde Permelly Mile
- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde Sello Ngema
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Ayanda Bhembe
- Regional Secretary - Cde Simphiwe Shungube
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Jerry Masilela

### **Newly elected Yure Mdyogolo Regional Office Bearers:**

- Regional Chairperson - Cde Dumile Xoxo
- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde Nomakhaya Pakade
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Phumlani Mbanya

- Regional Secretary - Cde Nosipho Jaceni
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Jojokazi Jojokazi

### **Newly Elected Boland Overberg Regional Office Bearers:**

- Regional Chairperson - Cde David Olebile Molusi
- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde Thembinkosi Plaatjies
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Zingisa Sinomali
- Regional Secretary - Cde Sandile Mkita
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Andrew Khoane

### **Newly Elected Rustenburg Regional Office Bearers:**

- Regional Chairperson - Cde Godfrey Chimule
- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde lucky Rakoma
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Mpho Modise
- Regional Secretary - Cde Shadrack Ramaru
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Kabelo Maphike

### **Newly elected Peter Nchabeleng Regional Office Bearers:**

- Regional Chairperson - Cde Lesiba Mashaba
- Regional Deputy Chairperson - Cde Mpho Chilwane
- Regional Treasurer - Cde Angie Maimela
- Regional Secretary - Cde James Khoza
- Regional Deputy Secretary - Cde Andries Motau





# SACP REITERATED ITS CALL

on rejecting  
privatization in support  
of CWU at Telkom

CWU reject job cuts in the  
Information, Communication and  
Technology sector

**T**he South African Communist Party has come out in total support for the Communication Workers Union on the challenges they are tackling in the State-Owned Enterprises in the country wherein they organize workers. SACP called on the government 'to strengthen its position in Telkom for a developmental purpose, as opposed to further privatisation'. The Party in partnership with organized labour such as CWU will mobilize the working class to oppose privatization vehemently.

The Communication Workers Union [CWU] General Secretary, Aubrey Tshabalala welcomed the position of the Party to defend jobs and demand sustainable creation of decent jobs for the massive unemployed young people.

SACP General Secretary, Solly Mapaila said, "Similarly, public service workers need to unite and intervene strategically to ensure that their Government Employees Pension Fund

managed by the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) tightens its grip on their collective stake in Telkom. The SACP will approach the progressive trade union movement, among others, as a matter of priority, to discuss and develop a joint programme of action to realise this way forward".

"The government equity stake in Telkom is 40,51 per cent, while that of the PIC is 13,39 per cent. This means that the government and the PIC, which is a public entity, control a combined stake of 53,9 per cent, which is decisive. By further consolidating its stake, the government can increase public ownership in Telkom, and work together with the PIC in pursuit of a developmental mandate. The government must build and strengthen thriving state participation in the information and communication technology network industry as part of the wider imperative to build a more diversified and growing public economy on behalf of the people as a whole. At present,

the industry is dominated by the duopoly of Vodacom and MTN".

Mapaila argued that, "At present, the majority of the people, overwhelmingly African in particular and black people in general, are the workers and poor. Women make up the majority of this majority. It will not make sense for the government to lament the persistent high levels of racialised class inequality and poverty and in contradiction pursue policies that in practice further enrich a tiny minority of individuals, leaving the majority behind.

The information and communication technology network industry is strategically important in the unfolding digital technological advances, including the increasingly crucial, diversifying and growing digital economy. This process of industrial transformation is heading towards a future of the most profound and more capable quantum technology industry, which is too important to be left entirely in the hands

of profit-driven, private capital accumulation interests leaving the majority of the people behind in ownership and related income terms. The suitors who have compiled and approached Telkom with unsolicited equity acquisition bids, including its former CEO Siphosiso Maseko's Afrifund group, know that it is a productive asset with highly valuable content. Their aim is none other than making far more than they would advance in equity acquisition capital if the deal they want were to be allowed to go ahead.

For there is nothing in principle prohibiting the government in particular as the largest shareholder to further consolidate its position and reposition Telkom to make more on behalf of the people as a whole. The government, together with the PIC, can help South Africa to roll back uneven development by bridging the digital divide through a rollout of digital connectivity infrastructure across the country".

## Affiliates



### CEPPWAWU SUPPORTS COSATU NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

Members of CEPPWAWU in the PWV participated in the march in Johannesburg

The newly elected leadership of [CEPPWAWU] in the PWV Region supported the National Day of Action on the streets of Johannesburg on the 6th of July 2023.

CEPPWAWU leadership led by comrade such Educated Nkosi said "COSATU programmes are CEPPWAWU programmes. The challenges highlighted

by COSATU that prompted COSATU to embark on action are actually the lived experiences of CEPPWAWU members.

It is our members who suffer precarious nature of work, poor wages vis-à-vis hard labour especially in Forestry, Wood-Working, Furniture manufacturing, job insecurity especially because the sectors we

work in experience peak and off-peak seasons causing intermittent short-time work to poor workers, health hazards and fatalities working with chemicals and in coal mining and power cuts affect workers' work arrangement (shifts); which cause them loss of wages and affect their family lives in general".

*"It is for these reasons that*

*CEPPWAWU vehemently supports COSATU National Day of Action as its own and calls upon all its members to take part in the protest actions, marches and the memoranda that deplore negative lived situations by members,"* said CEPPWAWU members.

**One COSATU, one CEPPWAWU!**





# YOUTH POWER, SHAPING AND RE-IMAGINING EDUCATION through future educators for a better future

- SADTU holds its 1st Student Chapter Imbizo

Students from Qwaqwa comprised SADTU's Student Chapter delegates at the 1st National Imbizo convened at the Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre, Boksburg

**S**ADTU President Magope Maphila delivered a political guidance to the Student Chapter 1st National Imbizo held at the Birchwood Hotel & Conference Centre in Boksburg which was attended by students from close to twenty-four [24] institutions of higher learning across the country.

The 1st National Imbizo tackled various themes such as Youth power, shaping and re-imagining education through future educators for a better future, guidance on how a teacher should conduct himself/herself, and

registration and Code of Ethics for newly appointed educators.

Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation Mr Buti Manamela addressed the launch of the South African Democratic Teachers National Student Chapter Imbizo on "Postgraduate Funding And Teaching Practice Allowance For Student Teachers" which took place in Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre, Boksburg on 28th 29th of June 2023.

The Imbizo was

celebrated under the theme "Youth power, shaping and reimagining education through future educators for a better future".

Close to three hundred delegates from different institutions of higher learning attended the Imbizo to launch the National Student Chapter.

The Imbizo afforded delegates an opportunity and platform to express their views and observations about the future of the teaching profession and scrutinise the various education policies with

the view of positioning themselves in the ongoing struggle towards ensuring the decolonisation of education.

During his address Deputy Minister Manamela highlighted that "it is an important step, the mobilization of students and youth amongst the fold of the progressive". In many respects, the role that students play on our campus and the progressive nature of politics that are agent on our campus should obviously aligned to tripartite alliance and the progressive alliance

## Affiliates

because we believe that you are important voice”.

He further reminded the delegates that “Our country’s National Development Plan

at the gala dinner of the 1st National SADTU Student Chapter Imbizo which was attended by close to 200 student teachers from institutions of higher

Driven by his understanding of the difficult conditions experienced by learners in rural areas, Cde Fenyane conceptualised and executed the SADTU

career programme for rural learners.

From the humble beginnings in Limpopo where he matriculated at Lihlabile High School, Fenyane enrolled at Wits University where he obtained the Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of

Education (Hons) degrees. He obtained a master’s degree in management in the field of Public Policy and Development also at Wits University.

Further, Cde Fenyane obtained several executive management programmes including an Advanced Monitoring and Evaluation in Research and Analysis qualification at Stellenbosch University.

He pursued a PhD Degree at the Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education at the University of Johannesburg. His research topic, Governing Universities in South Africa: The role of Councils. His topic

showed his deep intellect and foresight if one looks at the governance crisis facing many of our universities today.

Cde Fenyane shared his thoughts and vision for education in various platforms locally and internationally. In one of these platforms, which is available on YouTube he shared the underlying principles of his education vision: a world where there was no religion, no race, no country, just human beings.

Dr Govender appealed on teachers, students, unionists, policymakers and academics to strive for the ideals Cde Fenyane lived for.

Minister of Basic education Angie Motshekga addressing one hundred and one delegates [181] who were attending the union 1st National Imbizo thanked the union for establishing the Student Chapter, she dubbed it “The Progressive Chapter”.

“It is an honour to address a distinguished gathering of future teachers. The profession you have chosen is the most important, it is not easy to do and does not need weaklings”. She reminded the delegates that the Imbizo is meant to celebrate the power of youth”. Other speakers were SACE CEO Ella Mokgalane.



Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation  
Mr Buti Manamela addressing the forum's plenary session

and also our policies in the department for Post School Education Training intends to grow the Post School Education and Training Sector substantially by 2020 and so we aim to do so by raising university enrolment to 1,5 million in projected rate of 23% as opposed to the 2011 enrolments of 900 thousand participation rate of the South African population”.

Dr Logan Govender, Senior Lecturer and Researcher at Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies at the University of Johannesburg paid a moving tribute to the late SADTU Researcher Officer, Bongane Samuel Fenyane

learning across all nine provinces.

Dr Govender described Cde Fenyane as a person who had exceptional intellect and humility; an internationalist, with a passion for education development throughout the world. He had a thirst for knowledge, loved education and believed in leading by example and served as an inspiration to students to have high expectations.

Cde Fenyane started working for SADTU in 2011 and sadly passed away in December 2015, at a tender age of 30, due to a brain tumour.



# Dr. Essop Pahad

was laid to rest at the Westpark Cemetery



'Hamba Kahle Mkhonto', said ANC Comrades as pallbearers led the procession at Westpark Cemetery

**C**omrade Dr Essop Goolam Pahad, was described by all who knew him as 'majestic giant with an impeccable record steeped in unwavering dedication of struggles for a better and humane world'.

Dr Pahad passed away on Thursday morning, 6 July 2023. He was born on 21 June 1939 in Schweizer-Reneke, now in North West Province.

'Dr Pahad's revolutionary

contributions to the national struggle for liberation and social emancipation, the South African Communist Party (SACP), the African National Congress (ANC), and the government are truly commendable. His steadfast commitment to the principles of social justice, equality, and freedom served as an inspiration to many', said mourners at the funeral.

**Delivering an eulogy of behalf of government and the African national congress, the Acting President, Mr. Paul Mashatile said "It was impossible and most painful to reconcile his frail state with the energetic, assertive, and forthright Comrade Essop, I have known throughout the decades of struggle".**

"Today we woke up to the sad news of the passing of a

*tried-and-tested cadre and leader of the people of South Africa, Comrade Essop Goolam Pahad. Personally, I first encountered Comrade Essop through the archives of the liberation movement, in which he, and his contemporaries feature in photographs on the margins of the 1956 Treason Trial armed with placards and posters outside the court with the unequivocal message: "Hands off*

our leaders!”

Mashatile said, “We thus accepted him as our leader because we knew that he grew up at the collective knee of the generation of Oliver Tambo, Yusuf Dadoo, “NT” Naicker, Reggie September, Joe Slovo, Helen Joseph, and

for exile in December 1964. His maturity into full membership and leadership of the ANC and the South African Communist Party spoke to the importance of political organisation as a school and teacher in society. He also trained in uMkhonto we Sizwe in

intellectual immorality.” He was a robust intellectual who always sought the best possible decisions in the organisation’s, the national and ultimately humanity’s interest. He said about his period in exile: “When you’re in exile, there are times when the light at the end of

opportunity to be able to meet representatives of communist parties from all over the world.”

“This was an all-around public intellectual whose political consciousness was shaped under the aegis of the Congress Movement. In 1994, he became one



The Special Official Funeral of the former late Minister in The Presidency, Essop Pahad took place at the Heroes Acre, Westpark Cemetery in Johannesburg

other outstanding liberators. An active member of the Congress Youth Movement, he was one of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress volunteers who produced and distributed ANC pamphlets and posters in the three years after the 1960 banning of the movement. For his activities against the apartheid regime, he was banned for five years and left the country

Angola. He represented the SACP on the editorial Council for the World Marxist Review from 1975 – 1985. He was thus one of the leading cadres of our movement and did much to advance the international pillar of our struggle”

“Comrade Essop internalised the Marxist adage: “To leave error unrefuted is to encourage

the tunnel is very dim. You always felt that you were very far away from home. To underscore his interest in the free and democratic exchange of ideas, he also said: “You had a great amount of time to read, to study, to discuss, to debate, and to get involved in all of these discussions not only with your own comrades but also with many other people. It was a wonderful

of the cadres the ANC deployed into the first democratic parliament, which gave us hope about the future of democratic South Africa. When he left public service in 1994, Comrade Essop established The Thinker, a quarterly journal for discussion, which added to the diversity of opinion in our media and public discourse spaces. This is yet another of his



numerous notable and unerasable contributions to the betterment of our society. Our movement and society is challenged to construct an environment in which, though they do not become clones, young people become as dependable as Essop's generation. In this way, the democratisation project does not lose its way."

"Essop Pahad has left a void. In his lifetime of struggle, he traversed the world to ensure that our struggle delivered victory to the ordinary masses of our people. We who remain are obliged to spare no effort to ensure that we stay the course. The words of Nikolai Ostrovsky come to mind: "Man's dearest possession is life. It is given to him but once, and he must live it so as to feel no torturing regrets for wasted years, never know the burning shame of a mean and petty past; so live that, dying, he might say: all my life, all my strength were given to the finest cause in all the world — the fight for the Liberation of Mankind"

"He could have been speaking of Essop Goolam Pahad. On behalf of Government and the people of South Africa, we convey our sincerest condolences to the Pahad family, friends and comrades". The General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), Solly Phetoe alluded that the federation mourns the passing of the former Minister in the Presidency, Dr. Essop Pahad. "The Federation offers its sympathies and support to his wife, children, grandchildren, brother and

the broader Pahad family. This is a loss not only to the Pahads but also for Tripartite Alliance and the nation as a whole" "Comrade Pahad dedicated his entire life to the democratic movement and the liberation of South Africa. This commitment to serve saw him playing active leadership roles in many formations from the Transvaal Indian Congress to the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party.

He followed a path set not only by his later father Goolam Pahad but also by another notable son of Schweizer-Reneke, Ahmed Kathrada. His journey in the liberation struggle saw him rise from being a student activist at Wits University to training with Umkhonto We Sizwe in Angola, from studying at the Lenin Party School in Moscow to serving on the World Marxist Review's Board in Prague. Dr. Pahad believed education is a lifelong process.

The Pahad family was forced to move their sons, Essop and Aziz, from Schweizer-Reneke to Johannesburg as there were no options for children of Indian descent to complete their schooling in a small-town suffocating under the yoke of racism. In spite of the many obstacles put in place by the apartheid regime for Black children to receive an education, Pahad not only received a Bachelor's degree from Wits but went on to earn a Master's and PhD from Sussex University in Britain".

Phetoe said "He is remembered as leader who was forthright in his views.

His period as Minister in the Presidency under former President Thabo Mbeki saw him play a key role in that administration. His tenure as the Minister responsible for the then Office of Persons with Disabilities is fondly remembered by disability rights organisations as he was a powerful champion for the rights of persons with disabilities. The passing of Essop Pahad is a reminder that this generation of stalwarts is coming to an end. If we are to do justice to their memories and sacrifices, the current and next generation of leaders need to reflect on their shortcomings and how they can better emulate the likes of the Pahad and many others who served South Africa with distinction during very difficult times. We have witnessed the rise of an embarrassing sense of entitlement, unhealthy lifestyles and an addiction to the trappings of power of too many current and aspiring leaders. This is a problem we can do without and that needs to be corrected if we want South Africa to reach its full potential." Meanwhile, the South African Communist Party (SACP) paid its tribute!

**Meanwhile, the General Secretary of the South African Communist Party (SACP) Solly Mapaila, on behalf of the Party said,** "It is with deep sadness and a heavy heart that we extend our heartfelt condolences on the passing of Dr Essop Goolam Pahad. Today, we mourn the loss of a revolutionary who dedicated his life to the struggle to overthrow the apartheid regime, establish democracy, drive

democratic transformation and development to eliminate the legacy of oppression and advance his country and its people towards prosperity".

"In this time of mourning, we extend our deepest sympathies to the Pahad family, the African National Congress (ANC), and the people of South Africa at large. May you find solace in the cherished memories, dedication to the revolutionary cause, and the contribution Dr Pahad had on the nation", said Solly Mapaila.

"Throughout his extensive revolutionary life and times, Dr Pahad held positions of great responsibility, including serving on the SACP Central Committee and Political Bureau for many years, both in exile and after unbanning, including in the 1990s to the early 2000s. His last two terms as a member of the SACP's highest leadership organs were as a member of the 10th National Congress Central Committee of the Party, from 1998 to 2002, and 9th National Congress Central Committee and Political Bureau of the Party, from 1995 to 1998.

Dr Pahad served as Cabinet Minister from 1999 to 2008. As a minister in the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa, he championed children's rights, advocated for the marginalised, and played a vital role in promoting government communication and information systems. His efforts in advancing the status of women, supporting the National Youth Commission, and



Former National Parliament Speaker from 2009 to 2014, Hon Vuyisile Max Sisulu joining the mourners at Wespark cemetery

*spearheading international marketing initiatives for the country left an indelible mark on the nation”.*

“Dr Pahad’s academic achievements include a PhD in History from the University of Sussex, a Master of Arts degree in African Politics, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. This reflects his dedication to intellectual growth and professional capacity.

As a stalwart of our struggle for liberation and social emancipation, his political activism, which began during his involvement with the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress Executive

Committee, demonstrated his unwavering commitment to the liberation struggle for freedom. Dr Pahad’s participation in producing and distributing ANC pamphlets and posters, as well as his subsequent exile, both as a revolutionary cadre of the ANC and the SACP, exemplified his courage and resilience in the face of adversity. During his time in exile, Dr Pahad continued to contribute to the ANC and the SACP, serving in leadership positions and representing the SACP on the Editorial Council of the World Marxist Review. His return to South Africa in 1990 marked the beginning of his invaluable service as

a Parliamentary Counsellor and Deputy Minister. Dr Pahad’s insightful research and publications have enriched many and their understanding of the complex political landscape, with numerous articles in the journals of the SACP and ANC, as well as various South African media outlets and publications”.

“As we bid farewell to the stalwart of our struggle for liberation and social emancipation, leader and patriot, let us remember Dr Essop Goolam Pahad for his unwavering dedication to the principles of democracy, social justice, equality, and ultimately the

goal of scientific socialism. His revolutionary legacy, especially, in our case, his contribution to the struggle to end apartheid, establish democracy, and lay the basis for advancing to a socialist transition, will continue to inspire current and future generations to strive for a better South Africa, Africa and world. In memory of this internationalist, the SACP will strengthen its struggle against imperialism in all its forms and manifestations,” concluded Mapaila.

**Dr Essop Goolam Pahad passed away at the age of 84. May his soul rest in peace!**



# Subscribe to The Shopsteward

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

make sure you get issues by  
subscribing?



## Shopsteward Subscription

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

## Subscription rates

The cost of six issues is

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



## Subscriber contact details

Surname .....

Name .....

Designation .....

Company .....

Address .....

Country .....

Tel .....

Fax .....

Cell .....

Email .....

## Payment options

☐ Cheque Enclosed, payable to COSATU

☐ Direct transfer:

### Banking details:

Name of Account: COSATU CEC

Bank: First National Bank

Branch code: 255005

Account number: 62345348644

Account type: Current

Please put in reference: SSJ & Your name

Name of credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Number

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

CVC (Last 3 digits on the reverse side)

--	--	--

Expiry date ...../.....

Signature ..... Date .....

Please post, fax or email proof of payment to

COSATU House, 110 Jorissen Street, Braamfontein

P.O. Box 1019, Johannesburg, 2000 or

Fax to +27 (0) 11 339 5080/6940

OR Email [nthabiseng@cosatu.org.za](mailto:nthabiseng@cosatu.org.za)

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