



# Voice of the Proletariat

District Publication



## 30 Fighting Years for workers' rights

### **COSATU**

The largest trade union federation that represents organised workers turned 30 on the 01<sup>st</sup> of December 2015.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions was formed on the 01<sup>st</sup> of December 1985 and have ever since been leading workers struggles and also played a definitive role in fighting apartheid.

Cosatu withstood a lot of resistance in its early years from the apartheid state. The resistance only made Cosatu more resolute in the fight for workers' rights and against the apartheid regime.

COSATU is passing through its worst period of internal instability since its establishment in 1985. It has come under fire from its very own leaders, members and affiliates. Guided by the slogan "Back to the Basics," the federation has been in a process of internal cleansing. During these times the alliance has stood by Cosatu and played its revolutionary role to ensure the continuous unity of the alliance.

This process of internal cleansing and building unity is well captured by the 2015 Special National Congress of Cosatu, that said:

*"We want discipline within the federation and in our affiliates. We want a COSATU that is based*

*on its constitution and founding principles of one country - one federation, one union - one industry, paid-up membership, worker control, worker solidarity, non-racialism and unity."*

COSATU should always remain conscious of its historical duty to unite the workers of this country and to ensure the improved working conditions in all sectors of employment under a single, militant and disciplined federation. Cosatu remains the voice of organised workers!

Cosatu should:

- Have ongoing recruitment of the almost 10 million workers in the country who are not unionised.
- Tackle business unionism and careerism, in addressing the challenge posed by union investments and retirement funds. Investments must benefit the workers and be developmental orientated.
- Eradicate labour brokers.
- Advancing the perspective of building a social wage, comprehensive social security system and include retirement insurance and universal health insurance.
- Hold campaigns against privatisation, outsourcing and the tenderisation of the state.
- Deal with gender based oppression and the legacy of gendered division of labour.
- Broaden the Financial Sector Campaign to address the permanent blacklisting of workers and former prisoners and advocate for the establishment of cooperatives.

The workers of the country needs a Cosatu that remains focussed on their mandate to serve the needs of the workers and to remain a beacon of hope to all workers.

**Cde OJ Fourie – SACP Deputy District Secretary**

[sacpkimberleydistrict@webmail.co.za](mailto:sacpkimberleydistrict@webmail.co.za)

# **SOCIALISM IS THE FUTURE, BUILD IT NOW!**