



COSATU

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Goodbye Fikile Zacharia Majola!

We note with interest the article in Sowetan of Tuesday March 25 consisting of an interview with Fikile Zacharia Majola the General Secretary of NEHAWU. What is especially revealing about the interview is his view that a split in COSATU is inevitable. He is reported to have said:

‘What is quite clear is that COSATU is going to fragment...through actions of NUMSA and Zwelinzima there is no doubt. To think otherwise is just being naive’

The truth is that Honourable Fikile Zacharia Majola (as he shall be referred to in the parliamentary circles after the 7th May general elections) has been instrumental in creating and fermenting the current divisions in COSATU. He, together with Sdumo Dlamini, are the ones who selectively and secretly circulated the now discredited ‘browse mole number two’, entitled SOURCE REPORTS, a document clearly crafted with the assistance of the national intelligence agents, whose sole intention was to cast aspersions on the revolutionary credentials, discredit and finally assassinate the character and completely destroy the General Secretary of COSATU, comrade Zwelinzima Vavi. Fikile Zacharia (the name appearing as number 85 in the ANC list for the deployees to the National Parliament) Majola is the person who fired the first salvo after Sdumo Dlamini at the COSATU CEC of 27-29 May 2013, surprising the majority of the affiliates (particularly those who, at that time, had not yet been privy to the "browse mole number two" report that was already in circulation) by his articulation. The following is part of what the Honourable Fikile Zacharia Majola said in that CEC;

"And those who have good memory will remember what we said at the time. So this is not new. So comrades will remember what happened in the run up to the 11th Congress, in the Political Commission, in the CECs, at the Congress, post Congress leading to the National Bargaining Conference. Now we wish, comrades from DENOSA, we actually wish, we prayed every day, prayed very hard, that the problem we (have) comrades, is that we are in a permanent paralysis. That's where the Federation is. So when we in a situation like that, something has got to give and is not as if we haven't thought through the consequences. Some of them can in fact (too) ghastly to contemplate, but we have to resort to them though.

The choice we have is to pretend there's no problem and then agree on some process and then the Federation will remain perpetually in a paralysis. We will not be in a position to implement the programme of action decided at Congress or at the last Bargaining Conference; because the Federation is split as we speak. So that's our dilemma, so what do we do is not as if comrades we are not trying to find the best peaceful way out of this situation. What do we do is not as if comrades we

are not trying to find a solution, we do, but that's our preference. Do we choose to remain in this permanent paralysis and the Federation eats itself up slowly from within because that's where we are, we are going down slowly that road. This thing has got to be stopped and stop now, there would be serious consequences, but the Federation will rebuild itself. That's all we stand, is not as if we haven't thought about implications of this for the Federation and for the entire democratic revolution movement itself, we have over two years, is not just starting from now, over two years. Why is this happening in the manner that's happening, because comrades there's a problem inside of the Federation and does not only have to do with the comrades sitting here, it has got to do with other forces outside of this boardroom, in this country and outside of this country. We are down one road of paralysis, the Federation will eat itself up, will get finished, unless we make a determination now to save the Federation. Now it's up to comrades who don't agree think that saving the Federation is to say peace, peace now, let's go down this route, let's see if the Federation will work. We say it will work, something must give and must give now, and that's the matter on which we say, we must now vote, and comrades must remember because comrades do things in public that we don't do. They go to meetings.... So that's where we are now comrades and we don't want to "Jika jika" about the problem the Federation is facing, now it is clear it is not all over the place, it is at the place, it is connected to forces outside this boardroom, in this country, outside this country. Otherwise we would have resolved the problems that we are facing. This Federation is quite capable of (with standing) the attacks on it, whether is attacks in Marikana or anywhere else, we defend ourselves. We can't because you are paralyzed from the top or because there are connections with people who are outside the Federation, in this country and outside this country and political programme is been pursued. No comrades are saying we must fold our arms".

Juxtaposing this venom by the outgoing Honourable Fikile Zacharia Majola with the opening speech to the same CEC by his chief ally, Sdumo Dlamini one cannot fail to see that these gentlemen have been promised platinum, gold and diamond by whom so ever to bring the Federation to its knees and as proof that such is achieved they have to bring to their political master, the head of its General Secretary - Comrade Zwelinzima Vavi.

By un-procedurally and unlawfully suspending Comrade Vavi and in so doing stealing the mandate of the workers who very much against their will, re-elected him at the 11th Congress in 2012, by attacking NUMSA for standing for the principles and for taking its decisions as guided by its members in their own Congress and by unconstitutionally refusing to call a Special National Congress to rebuild COSATU and elect a leadership that can take it out of its current paralysis they have exposed their desperation. To you Zacharia and your cronies have accomplished your mission you have been rented for, that of wounding COSATU, it is time that you must just go to your masters and leave COSATU alone.

We are not surprised that Zacharia Fikile Majola who specializes in fathering babies with his own staff members is so pessimistic. He has dismally failed to shape COSATU into a body that resembles something from the former Soviet Union, where unions were little more than conveyor belts for the leadership. As he says himself:

“The role of the federation is to build strong unions but we are preoccupied with policies. We have long lost the capacity to control these unions”



Precisely! What Zacharia Fikile Majola wanted, before he packs his bag for Parliament, was a federation that was controlled by the NOBs, a federation that was not democratic, independent and under workers control. He especially wanted a federation that did not embarrass the ANC leadership by raising issues like poverty, inequality, and of course the chronic levels of corruption, as Comrade Vavi has been doing.

We do not believe that COSATU is anywhere near finished. The enthusiasm we have encountered from shop stewards and worker activists in every Province, and even within Zacharia's own Union - NEHAWU, whenever they get the opportunity to help free the federation from its paralysis and conveyor belt approach confirms this. Workers want an organisation that engages them in the fight for their class interests, not one that tries to turn COSATU into a toothless election machine!

Goodbye Honourable Fikile Zacharia Majola and your three other fellow NOBs at NEHAWU. Go, warm your sits and enjoy yourself your Ministerial Handbook privileges in Parliament or in the Cabinet just like your master, Honourable Bonginkosi Blade Nzimande and comrade top secret. But be warned, we shall be here, amongst the working class, rebuilding a new united COSATU and demanding that as a politician you implement your manifesto promises and start responding to the needs of the working class and the poor and perhaps making amends for your failed attempts at derailing COSATU at this time. You haven't seen nothing yet!

HAMBA KAHLE E E ZACHARIA!

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