



# COSATU

CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS

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## The Crisis in COSATU and Rebuilding Unity

COSATU Eastern Cape Provincial Executive Committee and the subsequent shopstewards council fully support the call by the constitutionally required number of affiliates for a Special Congress of COSATU. The purpose of the Special Congress should be (a) to develop a line of March in relation to the current political and economic situation, (b) to take stock on how we have gone with implementation of the previous congress resolutions and (c) to elect a leadership capable of leading and uniting the organisation.

We are greatly dismayed by the COSATU Presidents insistence in not holding a Special Congress until after the next CEC. We view this as a time wasting tactic in an attempt to add further obstacles in the way of the membership being able to decide who they want to lead COSATU. The CEC is unable to resolve this crisis, and it is time for the Workers Parliament, as the sovereign body, to decide.

The Constitution states that 14 days' notice is required for a Special Congress, and it must therefore be called. There is no confusion among the affiliates calling for a Special Congress about its purpose. To delay is to leave COSATU in a state of paralysis, and to risk deeper divisions than what exist already. This can only benefit those who want a COSATU that is nothing more than a labour desk.

If our Alliance partners want the 2014 elections to be a success, they must allow COSATU to manage its own affairs, and not interfere without being invited and making matters worse. COSATU as an independent organisation is more than capable of making its own decisions without the involvement of those who have shown that they have their own vested interests. In fact a divided COSATU has far reaching consequences to its ally's than itself in particular at this time for the ANC though some seem to be happy about the situation.

We are firmly of the view that the General Secretary is being victimised because he is outspoken on the policies of our Federation, on poverty, corruption, inequality and the accumulation of vast amounts of wealth by some of our movement's leaders

Comrade Vavi is the most popular leader in our movement, because he speaks for those who are still oppressed, and who are mostly ignored, except at election time. In our view, the charges against him have been dealt with, and it is now time to move to a Special Congress.

This PEC calls on all COSATU PECs to follow the path we are taking, and show the current leadership of our Federation that we are not prepared to be sidelined, or ignored. As a province we are calling to our national structures to refuse to be misdirected and focus on implementing the congress resolutions in particular the socio-economic resolutions which its implementation seem to be bone of contestation in the Federation.

We are further disappointed by our own vanguard party which seem to be taking sides on the COSATU matter which in our view is further dividing it. It has once again been the view of the party that generally investment companies are source of conflict in those unions having them. The question now is why the General Secretary of the party singling NUMSA if it is not the further perpetuation of speaking against those they not in support. The SACP in our view cannot be neutral in the Class struggle as they purport to want COSATU resolve its business.

The PEC and the secretariat further was deeply concerned of continued attack of workers in all sectors and called for the unity of affiliates and solidarity at all times. A special dedication was placed on the new developments that there is an intention to privatise Coega development Agency and further reduce the number of teachers the PROVINCE further resolved that on societal matters that include health delivery of basic services by municipalities and the radical economic transformation it won't leave stones unturned. As we cannot justify in our people the slow pace of the real meaning of freedom in about 20 years into democracy

#### ISSUED ON BEHALF WHO SUPPORTED THE MOVE

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