



COSATU

One Country, One Federation
An injury to one is an injury to all

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The living wage campaign is not separate from the struggles workers are waging every day - it is meant to strengthen them !

Some people still ask : "How do we get the living wage campaign going ? The struggles around wages and conditions that workers are fighting every day is the basis of COSATU's campaign and its starting point. If the campaign is not giving strength and unity and solidarity and direction to these struggles then the campaign is not working. The main aim of the campaign is to develop and unite these struggles by:

- popularising and mobilising support for Cosatu's living wage demands together with workers' other demands
- creating national, regional and local Cosatu committees where delegates from union living wage committees and from striking workers can share information, plan together and co-ordinate united struggle for a living wage
- exposing the starvation wages workers are earning, the super profits bosses are making and the inability of the bosses system to meet workers needs
- use the campaign to organise unorganised workers into COSATU and to make sure that no group of workers struggles alone
- use the campaign, which has wide-spread support from all democratic organisations, to unite the mass democratic movement behind the workers' struggle

Living wage campaign weak but... **A STRIKE WAVE !**

The biggest strike wave in South Africa's history has built up this year.

In the first four months of 1987 there were many more workers on strike every day than in the whole of 1986.

Tens of thousands of workers have fought long and bitter struggles - often at the same time, but isolated from each other - for a living wage.

But despite workers massive strike action already this year, COSATU's living wage campaign has not yet come together as it should.

The National Living Wage Committee is weak - many of our major industrial affiliates are not even participating.

The Regional Living Wage Committees are hardly functioning, although they have been established. And only a few local committees have been established.

Of course the repression against COSATU has affected the campaign. But a bigger problem is that many unions and regions are just not trying. And the only people suffering are COSATU workers.

Building and mobilising a national



campaign for a living wage is not easy. It needs the active participation of all unions in COSATU. It needs to be taken seriously by the union leadership.

COSATU workers have showed in struggle the determination and strength needed to build the campaign. On page 2

& J. COSATU looks at just some of the actions and gains COSATU workers have achieved in an almost continuous strike wave this year. If this strength is to be united and co-ordinated by our living wage campaign than workers must make sure that their unions take it more seriously.