

COSATU/SACTU forge greater unity!

On 22 March 1990 an historic meeting took place between COSATU NEC and SACTU NEC in Lusaka, Zambia to plan the strategy and tactics for the final assault on the apartheid regime by the people of our country, led by the ANC. The aim - the establishment of a unitary, non-racial democratic South Africa.

The COSATU delegation consisted of 14 unions comprising General Secretaries and Presidents and was led by COSATU General Secretary, Cde Jay Naidoo and Vice Presidents, Cdes Chris Dlamini and John Gomomo.

The SACTU delegation was led by its General Secretary and President, Comrades JK Nkadimeng and Kay Moonsamy respectively.

On the eve of the independence of Namibia, and at a time of significant political changes in South Africa, SACTU and COSATU met to discuss the future status of SACTU and the trade unions in our country.

This is a time of great opportunities for the workers of our country to broaden and strengthen the path of the liberation struggle. Thousands of exiles have the possibility of returning to their motherland. This is a direct result of the years of intense struggle against the apartheid regime. We have forced FW de Klerk to unban the ANC, SACP and other organisations.

The spirit of profound commitment and common purpose that prevailed enabled the meeting to take far reaching decisions aimed at further uniting the trade union move-

ment inside the country.

The following resolution was adopted:

JOINT SACTU/COSATU RESOLUTION

This meeting of SACTU/COSATU leadership noting that:

1. SACTU has played a vanguard role in the trade union movement in South Africa.
2. SACTU and COSATU are committed to the principle of One Country, One Federation, One Union, One Industry.
3. SACTU has played a special role in consolidating the democratic trade union movement under the banner of COSATU.
4. SACTU does not see itself re-emerging in South Africa.
5. The changing conditions in South Africa require the trade union movement to reassess the way forward to strengthen working class organisation.

Therefore resolves that:

1. We jointly commit ourselves to One Union, One Industry and One Country, One Federation.
 - 1.1 COSATU and SACTU agree to the phasing out of SACTU with the objective of achieving the principle of One Country, One Federation.
 - 1.2 The phasing out of SACTU will provide an important opportunity to broaden trade union unity under COSATU.
2. A facilitating committee, comprising 5 delegates each from both SACTU and COSATU, be established to oversee the process of the phasing out of SACTU. The terms of reference of the facilitating committee shall be:

- 2.1 To expedite the return of SACTU cadres.
- 2.2 To facilitate the integration of SACTU members into COSATU and unions as far as it is possible.
- 2.3 To make arrangements for a visit by SACTU NEC to South Africa to provide reports to workers on its activities since it went underground, as well as the decisions of the joint meeting.
- 2.4 To assist SACTU to provide reports to international trade unions and fraternal organisations on the decisions of the joint meeting.
- 2.5 SACTU NEC should continue in office until the process of phasing out has been completed.
3. The facilitating committee is to provide a report to COSATU and SACTU within one month from the date hereof (22 March), and further reports are to be provided periodically until the phasing out is completed.
4. The report of the deliberations and resolutions of this historic meeting be given to the ANC, SACP, COSATU, SACTU and UDF.

ROLE OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

This issue was debated and the following was agreed:

- The trade union movement must remain independent and under the democratic control of its own membership.
- COSATU must play a key role in the restructuring of the post apartheid economy, and in the policy making structures on economic policies relating to investment, re-distribution, education, housing, health, manpower

- development and environmental policy.
- A joint structure with the liberation movement needs to be set up to discuss these issues.
- COSATU must form disciplined alliances with political parties with which they share common programmes, objectives or campaigns. More debate should be held to give content to the alliance with the SACP and ANC.
- COSATU must formulate a clear education programme based on the interests of our trade union members in particular and the working class in general.

To assist this process COSATU must do a feasibility study of setting up a workers college under the control of the trade union movement.

To ensure that COSATU is independent and that the trade union movement is strengthened we must develop leadership so that while COSATU members are encouraged to join and occupy leadership positions in political parties we are allied to, there should be a separation of leadership between the trade union movement and a political party.

Long Live the Revolutionary Alliance!



One Country, One Federation!