

Campaign for jobs or living benefits — NUWCC

This 'jobs or a living benefit campaign' is the most important campaign of Cosatu's National Unemployed Workers Co-ordinating Committee (NUWCC).

Jobs are the right of every unemployed — not the privilege of a minority. If the bosses and their government can not give us jobs then we demand a living benefit.

We demand a living benefit now, but we will always remember that our long-term demand is for jobs offering a living wage.

For a society that gives every unemployed a job, where those that work also control their work.

Part of the living wage campaign:

The struggle for jobs or living benefits is a part of the struggle for a living wage. Every unemployed needs a job or a living wage. A living unemployed benefit is the living wage of the unemployed.

The NUWCC must sit on the COSATU's living wage structures and fight for our demands.

A survey to find out needs:

We have said that we want the unemployed themselves to tell us what their needs and demands are. We are going to use a door-to-door survey to help us.

The survey will ask the unemployed how much they need for a living benefit. It will ask the unemployed what their demands are.

What is a living benefit:

An allowance from the government to be given to every single unemployed person.

It must pay for our rent, food, clothes, transport, school fees and all the other basic needs of the unemployed.

All the unemployed must get a living benefit until they find work.

The living benefit is the right of every unemployed person.

The government must pay for the living benefit.

We need the support of our mass organisations — COSATU, UDF and SAYCO.

The NUWCC wants the support of our mass organisations in this struggle. We want the UDF and our brothers and sisters in SAYCO to join us and help us build the struggle for the unemployed.

The UDF has given us support to COSATU jobs for all campaigns. It has called on its members to join COSATU and SAYCO and organise the unemployed to demand the creation of more jobs.

Other demands:

Linked to the demand for jobs or living benefit we also have other demands which can be turned into



Mineworkers are paid off after another mass dismissal. Every retrenched or dismissed worker must join the NUWCC.

ORGANISE THE UNEMPLOYED

smaller campaigns.

• Free transport and rent for the unemployed.

• All debts of the unemployed should be scrapped.

• Free medical treatment for as long as the unemployed need it.

• An end to evictions and restructures.

Other NUWCC demands:

Cosatu's second national congress in July resolved to:

1. Fight for a living unemployment benefit for all.
2. Send all retrenched workers to the unemployed workers' union.
3. Build a campaign for a 40-hour week and a ban on overtime to make more jobs for the unemployed.

Jobs for a living benefit:

• More UIF money faster and for longer periods of time.

• An end to racism and administrative delays inside the UIF.

The NUWCC is committed to organise against scabbing (taking of the jobs

of the working workers).

We are unemployed, but we will never support scabbing. We know that striking workers are the brothers and sisters of the unemployed.

We know that our future is linked to the strength and victories of the trade unions. This is why we will not take jobs of striking workers.

This is why we will actively organise to prevent other unemployed from taking these jobs.

"Jobs or a living benefit" is more than a struggle for money. By building the campaign, the NUWCC wants:

1. To build a mass base for a national union of the unemployed.
2. To build and strengthen the organisation of the unemployed.
3. To develop political awareness amongst the unemployed.
4. To develop working class leadership.
5. To develop anti-racism.
6. To broaden our political perspective.

The NUWCC has begun

the task of popularising the campaign. This is only the beginning.

This must be followed by a survey of the unemployed. The survey will show the needs and demands of the unemployed.

We then want to call a congress of the unemployed. In this congress the demands must be clearly put together.

On this basis, we will launch the unemployed workers' union as an affiliate of COSATU.

300 000 students leave school every year. They must register for work and demand jobs.

Unemployment — the struggle of all workers employed and unemployed.

In 1987, 100 000 workers were dismissed leaving over half a million family members without the wages we need for survival.

Many of these workers felt the rubber baton, the teeth of dogs and the pain of tear gas in their eyes.

For these workers and for millions of other workers and youth it is clear that the bosses and their government will do anything to protect their profits.

For the bosses and their government it is more important to have bigger profits than to provide us with jobs.

Build united action to protect all jobs!

We must organise and end unemployment. We have our short-term struggles against overtime, scabbing and for a living unemployment benefit.

These are important and we must build them and fight to win, but we must always link them to our long-term struggle for society where every worker has a job.

If we do not do this, unemployment will always be with us, ready to grow again into a bigger monster than it is today. We have seen that unemployment is part of the bosses' racist profit system.

We have seen how this system uses unemployment to create vigilantes and scabs.

Alone, the unemployed do not have the strength to challenge the bosses' racist profit system. This is why the struggle against unemployment must be the struggle of the entire

working class — employed and unemployed. We wage workers or the unions to see this. We want them to understand that we are not strong enough alone — we need their industrial power.

If we are divided this can only benefit the bosses and their government.

The unemployed must build their struggles — but at the same time go to those in the unions and convince them to fight and implement the Cosatu's resolutions on unemployment.

We employed workers to struggle together with us for a society where every worker will have a job.

The struggle against unemployment is political. It is against the bosses' racist profit system which forces unemployment on us. It is to overcome the many divisions amongst working people that turn a worker against a worker — it is a struggle that must be fought and won. In the end it is a struggle — for a society that gives every person both the right to work and the right to control their work.