

CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS

Two important resolutions were passed at the Special National Congress.

RESTRICTIONS ON COSATU:

Noting:

1. That the international community has declare apartheid a crime against humanity;

2. That attempts to preserve this system have lead to increaded conflict, violence and the imposition of various States of Emergency, in a blind attempt to destroy the peoples' struggle to assert their humanity;

3. That the latest clampdown by the Nationalist government has declared that:-Cosatu is restricted from doing the following:-
campaign for the unabnning of banned organisations;

- campaign for the release of detained people;
- campign for the lives of people on death row;
- or for the release of leaders in prison;
- campaign for the doing away with all structures like the local authorities;
- commemorate important days in the history of our struggle;
- commemorate the founding of organisations like the UDF;
- participate in, or establish, any 'alternative structures' to those imposed on us by government;
- campaign for pressure to be put on the SA government through disinvestment or trade boycotts;
- campaign for other governments to cut ties with the government;
- call for academic or cultural boycotts of this country;

And the UDF and 17 leading organisations within the Democratic Movement are totally banned;

4. That COSATU remains committed to struggle for and defend the basic human rights of our members in every sphere of their lives;

as reflected in our policy and resolutions;

5. That the Nationalist government intends to celebrate 40 years of Nationalist Party Rule from the 31st of May;

And believing:

1. That the UDF and 17 other organisations represent the legitimate and peaceful attempt by millions of our people to end apartheid;

2. That it is our birthright and duty to remain committed to:

- the struggle against high rents and poor housing;

- the struggle against the government's attempts to impose upon us illegitimate and corrupt apartheid structures such as the tricameral parliaments and the bantustans;

- the struggle against the arbitrary actions of the government our people - like bannings, detentions and restrictions;

- the struggle to intensify peaceful attempts by the international community to end apartheid;

- commemorating important events in the history of our struggle against repression;

2. That it is totally illegitimate for the Nationalist government to try to restrict our activities to those it defines as the 'proper' functions of a trade union;

3. That all peace-loving people committed to peace and justice support our condemnation of these restrictions and reject the bannings of the UDF and 17 other organisations;

4. That no amount of repression will succeed in crushing the people's resolve to continue to organise against apartheid;

And resolves:

1. To reject these restrictions;

2. To reaffirm our commitment to carrying out our policies and resolutions to the full;

3. To initiate a campaign, both locally and internationally, to fight the restrictions and bannings;

4. To put aside three days at the beginning of June (6,7 and 8) during which all freedom-loving people in our country will get together to discuss ways of opposing these restrictions and bannings to demonstrate our rejection of the results of forty years of Nationalist rule.

(This resolution was censored before publication because of the Emergency regulations.)

RESOLUTION ON THE UNITED FRONT AND AN ACTION PROGRAMME

This congress:

Noting:

1. The recent attempts by the state to stifle all mass based anti-apartheid organisations, and the attempt through the labour relations bill to restrict trade union activities;
2. The militancy, determination and confidence of the masses in struggle over the past few years;
3. In the light of the above, the need to broaden our base, and to build on the gains, already made;

And believing:

1. That it is necessary to show our opposition to the attacks by the state by both short term acts of protest and long term strengthening of our organisations;
2. That in regard to the above, we have the capacity to seize the initiative;

Therefore resolves:

To convene a conference organising committee comprising the Cosatu Central Executive and its allies as defined in the political policy resolution, which committee shall:-

1. Consider prospects for the development of a programme of action and organisation against repression;
2. Call a conference of a broad range of anti-apartheid organisations to further deliberate on the above issues and which would work on the basis of democracy, disciplined mandates and free and open debate;
3. Intensify our efforts to establish a united front as per the Cosatu Policy resolution;

And further resolves:

To intensify our shop floor campaign against the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act by further acts of protest, and by co-ordinating efforts to ensure our recognition agreements supercede the terms of the Labour Relations Act.

