

FEDERATION LAUNCHED

The merger between the Council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA) and the Azanian Confederation of Trade Unions (AZACTU), two previously separate trade union federations into a single one, is warmly welcomed by all of us who believe that unity in struggle is all important to achieve victory over the oppressors and exploiters. Although this is a vital step forward, divisions still exist within the trade union movement. We see the formation of Cusa-Azactu as another obstacle removed on the road to a single, united trade union federation in our country. What is required for this goal to be realised, is much hard work, perseverance and non-sectarian attitude.

Excerpts from Policy Document



Preamble

The philosophy, policy and ideological orientation of the federation will be based exclusively on the broad democratic aspirations of the most oppressed and exploited. The Federation shall forever strive to interpret on-going struggles of the working class in terms of a principled working class ideology, and committing itself to the emancipation of labour, taking note of the peculiarities and uniqueness of our situation from time to time.

We believe in the principle of worker unity based on the material conditions workers are exposed to. Furthermore we believe in the principle of worker control based on anti-racism/non-racialism to build a non-exploitative, democratic society, based on the leadership of the working class. Our concept of a new Federation is a Federation which would unite the majority of organised workers in our country and express the true aspirations of workers.

The Federation therefore adopts the following principles:

1. Worker control
2. Black working class leadership
3. Non-affiliation to political organisations
4. Financial accountability within unions
5. Independent internal actions of unions within the framework of the federation policy.

Nationalisation

We the victims of continued oppression and exploitation in our daily lives commit ourselves to fierce opposition to these twin evils. The Federation, as part of this broad opposition, believes that these evils can only be replaced by a democratic society founded on the non-existence of any form of discrimination.

Further, the Federation recognises the fact that the entire country, balkanised or not, belongs to the indigenous people of our country.

To this end, the Federation believes that the most oppressed and exploited are the only ones capable of bringing about the desired transformation, armed with the following principles:

- anti-capitalism
- anti-imperialism
- anti-racism
- anti-sexism

National and international relations

The Federation recognises the existence of other organisations committed to the same and similar goals as itself, both nationally and internationally. In its relations with other organisations, The Federation will maintain its autonomy and shall not seek to affiliate to any international confederation, but shall reserve the right to relate to any of them so long as such relations shall be governed by, or in furtherance of our ideological orientation.

Foreign Investment

The Federation recognises that foreign investment support and maintain the economic system in this country and that this system is geared at the maximum exploitation of the working class. Further, the Federation notes that the Black working class which is responsible for creating the wealth of the country does not benefit from the natural and material resources which rightfully belongs to it. Therefore, the Federation believes that foreign investment in our country is a further perpetuation of exploitation and oppression, and that its continued presence in our country is not in the interest of the working class. Further the Federation is committed to a full sanctions program for as long as the racist capitalist minority regime exists.

