

# COSATU CHARTS THE WAY FORWARD

Over 300 worker delegates attended COSATU Campaigns Conference which was held on the 26-28 March 1993. The Conference deliberated and discussed a number of key issues facing the federation and assessed developments of central importance to the trade union movement in general. After three days of intense debates a programme of action for 1993 was worked out.

The conference endorsed the proposal for a Programme of Reconstruction and Development, which Cosatu is putting forward for discussion by general membership, the Tripartite Alliance and other organisations. The programme will propose a planned, extensive restructuring of our society both at the socio-economic level and at the level of the state, to ensure that a new democracy effectively addresses the needs of the majority.

COSATU hopes to see an election platform which incorporates the key elements of such a programme, and to work out a coherent and systematic plan as to how such a programme will be implemented. COSATU Special Congress will be held in September this year, to finalise the proposal on the Reconstruction Programme, including the idea of reaching a Reconstruction Accord with the ANC.

Conference resolved to throw COSATU full weight behind the ANC in the forthcoming election campaign. Cosatu will be embarking on its own voter education programme to ensure that as many workers go to the polls as possible.

The federation acknowledged the serious attacks that are being made on workers organisation through retrenchments, unilateral restructuring, attacks on collective bargaining and state violence. It has become clear that the anti-union proposals contained in Derek Keys Normative Economic Plan

and the government Bill of Rights are not, as is claimed, mere discussion points fed into a debate. Cosatu will intervene directly to assist affiliates where unilateral actions are being taken by employers or the state to collapse central bargaining structures, as in



ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa (second from the left) joins workers in the singing of freedom songs at COSATU Campaigns Conference. Other COSATU leaders were Sam Shilowa, Assistant General Secretary; Jay Naidoo, General Secretary; John Somomo, President.

the building industry and others. Furthermore it will be raising the issue sharply at the National Economic Forum (NEF) that it is contradictory to deliberate policy while it is implemented with the view of sabotaging negotiations forums.

Conference addressed the crisis in the public sector, including education, brought

about by the governments irresponsible and unilateral actions in enforcing a cut in real wages and the retrenchment of workers. COSATU will be implementing a programme of action to support the demands of public sector workers for a living wage and

one Labour Relations Act (LRA) and to reverse unilateral public sector cuts, particularly where these cuts are reducing services to communities which are already chronically under serviced. Marches will be held on 8 May to focus on the crisis in the public sector.

Conference condemned the wholesale

attack on living standards of workers and the poor. While real wages are declining employers in every sector are indulging in an orgy of retrenchments. At the same time prices are rising at a rapid rate. Derek Keys announcement of VAT and fuel increases have already started to cause prices to rise, including transport, postage etc. Federation will be intensifying the campaign for zero-rating of medicines, electricity and water against the rise in VAT. Cosatu is undertaking an extensive assessment of the retrenchments currently taking place and will launch a national campaign against retrenchments. The campaign for job creation through public works and industrial restructuring would be embarked upon at the same time.

The Conference condemned the intransigence of the present regime in perpetuating its control of SABC. COSATU has committed itself to campaign for total boycott of SABC licences, and to bring pressure on advertisers in organised COSATU factories to withdraw their advertising. Conference stressed the importance of a special organisational focus on unorganised workers, women and people in the rural areas. COSATU will be embarking on major process of going to workers to report on these and other decisions to empower them to intervene in the key political and economic issues of the day, including in the area of policy development.



O.R. Tambo: 1917-1993.

## OLIVER TAMBO IS NO MORE

ANC National Chairperson, Comrade Oliver Reginald Tambo died on 24 April after suffering a severe stroke. The oppressed of South Africa have lost a political leader of great vision and indomitable commitment to freedom and democracy. We will miss his political wisdom magnificently shown over a period of over 30 years as a leader. Our profound condolences to the family, relatives and comrades.

Full tribute will be run in our next issue of NUM NEWS.

## U OLIVER TAMBO AKASEKHO EMHLABENI

Usihlalo we Sizwe we ANC, uqabane u Oliver Reginald Tambo usishiye ngomhla we 24 April 1993 emva kokuba ehlaselwe kakubi sisitroke.

Abantu abacinezelayo base Mzantsi Afrika balahlekelwe yinkokheli yezopolitiko enembono ezinkulu kwaye eyazinikela enkululekweni nakwintando yesininzi ngexesha lobunzima. Silahlekelwe bubulumko bakhe kwezopolitiko abubonakalise kwithuba elingaphezulu kweminyaka eyi 30 eyinkokheli. Uvelwano lwethu olunzulu kusapho, kwizalamane nakumaqabane. Hamba Kahle Comrade Oliver Tambo. Intlonipho egcweleyo siyokuyipapasha kwikhasi ellandelayo le NUM NEWS.

## OLIVER TAMBO HA A SA PHELA

Molula-setulo e moholo oa ANC, Comrade Oliver Reginald Tambo o hlokaetse mohla la 24 Mmesa 1993 kamora ho kula ho mo oetseng ka sehloho (stroke). Batho ba hatelletsoeng ba Afrika Boroa ba lahlehetsoe ke moetapele oa lipolotiki ea neng a ena le maikemisetso a maholo bakeng sa tokoloho le demokerasi. Bohla bo a bo bontshitseng joalo ka moetapele ho tsa lipolotiki lilemong tse ka holimo ho tse mashome a mararo re tla lula re ntse re bo hopola.

Re lebisa kutloelo bohloko ea rona ho ba lelapa, ba leloko mmoho le li-comrades tsa hae.

Phelo e fellatseng e mabapi le eena e tla hlaha ho NUM News e latelang.