



Mass action by workers against the LRA has forced the government to negotiate with the unions

Week of action by unions

COSATU held a very successful Week of Action against the LRA, Natal violence and privatisation during June.

Workers are mobilising against the Labour Relations Act, Barlow Rand's union bashing and the selling of our power stations and

railways to the bosses.

ACOSATU LWC/LRA conference on 12 and 13 May attended by 300 worker delegates from the unions called for joint national action.

This year COSATU is campaigning around five issues which affect the majority of workers:

- Living Wage
- Barlow Rand
- Privatisation
- Labour Relations Act
- Workers Charter

The campaigns and joint action at plant and factory level can take forward worker demands.

The LWC is demanding a

Living Wage for All and unemployment benefits.

It is calling for job security and job creation by the building of more factories. It is against retrenchments and the forcing workers into casual labour.

Bosses such as Barlow Rand are also trying to act against centralised bargaining to weaken workers united at a national and industrial level.

Stop Privatisation - the selling off of state organisations such as the railways and Post Office - and an end to monopoly control by companies like Anglo American are part of the Living Wage Campaign.

The Living Wage demands are:

- End racial employment
- A 40-hour work week
- A ban on overtime
- Reduction of job grading
- The right to social security
- Education and training

Two years of struggle against LRA

TWO years of struggle against the changes to the Labour Relation Act are bringing results.

But there is more struggle in front of COSATU before the battle is won.

Pressure by workers and negotiations between COSATU/NACTU and the bosses organisation, SACCOLA,

have resulted in an accord which will be put forward to the government.

The accord covers some of the rights workers lost in 1988 such as strikes becoming unfair labour practises. It was agreed all workers, including farm and domestic, should be covered by law and have basic rights.

Basic worker rights include the right to belong to a trade union,

bargain collectively, strike, work, stop order facilities, access and shop steward recognition.

But COSATU wants many more changes to the Labour Relations Act:

- Cover all workers
- Include so-called homelands
- Unfair for bosses to victimise or union bash

Stop selling what we have built!

UNIONS in the public sector have called for support in their fight against privatisation.

The regime is selling off public companies such as the railways, power stations, health services and the post office to companies and rich individuals.

This is because apartheid is crumbling and the bosses want economic power in their hands. COSATU and the democratic movement led by the ANC oppose privatisation and the theft of the wealth of our country.

The cost of electricity, health, education and transport will increase greatly as the bosses

will seek increased profits.

More workers will be retrenched as the bosses will try and rationalise production.

The ruling class also wants to rob a new democratic government in a non-racial South Africa of the resources needed to start removing the poverty and misery of apartheid.

These public sector companies have been built up by the sweat of the working people of South Africa over the years and belong to the nation as a whole.

The public sector unions such as POTWA, SARHWU, SAMWU and NEHAWU have called on workers to show solidarity and join in their marches.