

FAWU BULLETIN

Newsletter For Members and Staff

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Cnr. NY1 & NY 110, Gugulethu, 7750
Tel: 021 637 9040 Fax: 021 637 9190.
E-mail: dominique-fawu@telkomsa.net



FAWU Calls on SA Human Rights Commission To Take Action On Pityana

Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) calls on *the SA Human Rights Commission* to investigate persistent assertions, the latest being yesterday at the convention of disgruntled former leaders of the ANC, by professor Barney Pityana, Vice Chancellor of the University of South Africa, implying that the ANC President is guilty of rape despite his acquittal by a court of law.

We believe this continued assertion by Pityana, starting before the **ANC Polokwane conference**, is a threat to the independence of the judiciary as they suggests he does not believe in the outcome or judgement of the court. We call on the Human Rights Commission to cease to be conspicuously silent while this Pityana continues loudly undermining this institution of democracy and violating the human rights of the acquitted person right in their face.

Meanwhile we call on the relevant law enforcement authorities to investigate Pityana's assertions, some reported in the Sunday weekly newspapers, and if the basis exist an arrest be made and prosecution be pursued.

We do not understand why Barney Pityana is so obsessed with his dislike of Jacob Zuma, an ANC leader democratically elected in its conference. We do not mind his dislike of Zuma but we take offence to his assertions that begin to undermine democracy and the country's constitution. We prefer that he

rather keep shut than publicly make reckless statements and get away with it.

[Released by FAWU on Sunday, November 2, 2008

ANC Should Not Engage Splinter Group

The Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) is of the view that that the staged-managed so-called high profile resignations from the ANC are no more dramatic news than the shikota group, assisted by section of the media, would want implant in the minds of ordinary people as part of the "ANC is in Crisis" programme. Actually, most of all the figures presented as high-profile persons resigning from the ANC are actually not prominent figures or they used to be in the period leading to Polokwane before being democratically voted out of office. To put it differently, they are ordinary members, like many other 500 000 members, of the movement. These include, T. Lekota, S. Shilowa, S. Ngonyama, P. Dexter, W. Madisha and M Hlongwane among others.

We welcome their flop convention with pathetic outcome because a group of disgruntled former leaders wanted numbers at all costs, including of basic principles of decency, by clubbing with right-wing parties such as DA and UDM, a non-identity one-man party of a confused Holomisa.

What annoys though, is the fact that the nation has been waiting for their evidence of how the ANC leadership, few months after Lekota and his other ilk

were democratically ousted from leadership positions they occupied for ten years, has deviated from the Freedom Charter and the constitution of the republic. It is Lekota who must explain why he deviated from the 'will of people principle' when he arrogantly went in to tell people of Khutsong that they will be relocated whether they like it or not.

Even worse, this convention did not raise any policy proposal, regarding socio-economic conditions facing the masses of the workers and the poor.

We wish this black DA, representing the interests of some of the black empowered black business and black professionals not to use the genuine grievances of workers and poor to mobilize them into this new monster, which will not represent their interests but that of the cigar-smoking and whisky-drinking elite.

We call upon the leadership of the ANC not to legitimise this splinter group by engaging it as suggested by the ANC deputy president, Kgalema Motlante. We believe that members of this splinter grouping left the ANC as individuals and if they were to be accommodated back into the movement, it must be on the basis of their individual membership.

[Released by FAWU on Sunday November 2008]

UDM responds to FAWU Statement

The United Democratic Movement would not allow itself to be intimidated into withholding support from the "Shikota" movement, UDM Eastern Cape

provincial secretary Wandile Tsipa said on Tuesday.

He was reacting to a statement by Food and Allied Workers' Union describing the national convention held by the movement at the weekend as a "flop".

Masemola also described the UDM, whose president Bantu Holomisa attended the meeting, as the "non-identity one-man party of a confused Holomisa".

Tsipa said the notion that the convention was a flop was a figment of FAWU's imagination.

Holomisa's right to support people who were exercising their democratic and constitutional rights could not be vilified by "short-sighted denialists" like FAWU.

[Published on 4 November 2008]

Exchange Controls Played Role in Insulating SA From Global Financial Crisis

The Food and Allied Workers' Union [FAWU] welcomes the fact that the country is largely insulated from the global financial crisis, as induced by the greedy and profit chasing sub-prime mortgage lenders in the heavily deregulated United States. We believe it is a result of COSATU and the SACP's relentless opposition to the relaxation of exchange controls the last twelve years.

We call on the Reserve Bank Governor, Tito Mboweni, to give COSATU and the SACP full credit for having opposed exchange control relaxation - a position he considered populist until recently.

In fact, we call on Tito Mboweni to apologize to the nation for claiming success on this front without acknowledging COSATU and SACP. We found his behavior morally repugnant and condemn his misleading the nation into believing that the retention of exchange control was prudent fiscal and monetary policy stances, voluntarily driven by him and the treasury alone without pressure and influence from our trade unions.

He is the one who deserves to be prayed for- for taking above-inflation rate (and on two occasions more than double the rate) in salary adjustments and increments while telling the poorly paid workers not to demand wage increases more than consumer price index figure.

[Released By FAWU on Thursday, October 30, 2008]

FAWU Welcomes former President Mbeki's Pledge Of Allegiance

FAWU welcomes former President, Thabo Mbeki's pledge of loyalty to the ANC and of distancing himself from the ANC renegades Shilowa and Lekota.

We believe that this was long overdue, given that these two were effectively using the name of former president to try and drum up

support amongst those people who may have been Mbeki -followers.

It is our view that this helps to clear the air for those members and leaders of the ANC who doubt their membership of our movement, or who still harbour intentions to join the renegades. For those who still claim to be confused about the allegiance of Thabo Mbeki, we call upon the ANC leadership to ask those who work against the organization to leave and not be allowed to destabilize it from within.

Meanwhile, as FAWU, we will proceed with our program of addressing general meetings of our members in factories, on farms, onboard fishing vessels and other workplaces, in which we shall expose the hypocritic intentions of the now rich Shilowa and Lekota.

[Released by FAWU –29 October 2008]

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[Released by FAWU 30 October 2008]

FAWU Elated Over Competition Amendment Bill

FAWU is elated that the Competition Amendment Bill has been passed by the National Assembly a week ago and will soon be signed into law by the President.

Hopefully company bosses will now think twice before engaging in any cartel activities as the amendment bill strengthen the Competition Authorities' powers in terms of dealing with corrupt company bosses.

Directors and executives found guilty of cartel activities can now be legally prosecuted and may face jail when found guilty of engaging in cartel activities. We are disgusted that these company

bosses could engage so shamelessly in anti-competitive conduct robbing the poor of access to basic foodstuffs, especially under the current economic crisis facing the majority of citizens.

We commend the Competition Commission in the excellent work it has done in uncovering cartel activities in various sectors over the past two years. We have full confidence that they will continue to do so.

[Released by FAWU-24 October 2008]

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