



COSATU

CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS

EASTERN CAPE

19b Devereux Ave
Vincent
East London 5217

P.O. Box 7523
EAST LONDON
5200

Tel: 043 726 4038/726 4045
Fax: + 27 + 43 + 726 3978
PC Fax: 0866605153
CELL 082 779 2466
mandla@cosatu.org.za
Internet: <http://www.cosatu.org.za>

THE CONTINUING CRISIS IN COSATU:

DECISIVE ACTION NEEDED TO DEFEND COSATU

COSATU Provincial Executive Committee Eastern Cape took place on the 28 February 2014 at Turn Bull Park in the absence of Provincial Office Bearers who decided to boycott and continue to undermine the decisions of the PEC to the extent of running away or refusing to call the PEC. It is for that reason the affiliates of COSATU decided to continue with the meeting in absence of POBs because workers continue to be subjected to all forms of extreme exploitation without the protection of their Federation.

The Unions who form the overwhelming majority of affiliates and locals that attended the Constitutional PEC, unanimously agreed that COSATU has to be defended not only because is the shield of our workers but because the broader section of society had COSATU to their highest esteem, as a result it was the only hopes of the working class.

On our deliberations we expressed our serious disapproval of the conduct of the POBs and that they have lost the confidence of affiliates. In taking this work forward we have agreed to convene a Shopstewards Council on the 08th March to give account to the entire shopstewards in the province. That will culminate to a Special Provincial Congress on the 22 March 2014 to address this predicament in the province to its logical conclusion.

Since the last PEC we have noted a number of other disturbing developments that we need to address to stop our Federation from becoming nothing but a rubber stamp for the reactionary elements within the Government and the ANC.

It is no accident that the Government have used the last few months to take advantage of the weakening of the leadership of COSATU caused by the factional suspension of Comrade Vavi.

Since the last PEC held in September 2013, we have seen the following decisions pushed down our throats. First e-tolling, then the Youth Subsidy, then ignoring of our criticisms of the NDP, and more recently, the ANC elections manifesto being developed without any meaningful input from COSATU despite what is said in COSATU House. We have also seen attempts to cover up corruption and to bully the

Public Protector. Without Comrade Vavi, COSATU is a toothless giant and has remained silent!

To make matters worse, Comrade Vavi has now been presented with nine flimsy charges, but there is still no process underway to allow him to exonerate himself, as we are sure he will. Instead there continue to be unattributed statements in the press claiming to be from inside COSATU, which are used to undermine his reputation and which the leadership factions do not condemn.

The recent CEC gave a clear indication that the leadership faction in COSATU is trying their level best to frustrate the democratic process. Although they have now conceded that a Special National Congress will at some time take place, they are using all manner of tactics to prevent the constitutional process from unfolding. They have also had to retreat on their shameful victimisation of NUMSA because they trampled over the rights of NUMSA to a fair hearing. Meanwhile our Federation remains in a state of paralysis.

There is no doubt in our mind that Comrade Vavi remains very popular, and even within those unions who are supporting action against him. That is why there are attempts to forestall the Special Congress taking place, because rank and file comrades support the defence of COSATU and Comrade Vavi, against those elements that want to sell the soil of COSATU even if some of their leaders do not!

The confusion and manipulation of the Forensic Report into the alleged malpractices of Comrade Vavi illustrate the lengths that the leadership faction is prepared to go to vilify Comrade Vavi further. Unfortunately for them, the transgression of both organisational and professional accounting norms has been exposed, and given the disarray, it now appears as if the evidence against Comrade Vavi is little more than rumour laced with vindictiveness.

The PEC expressed its disappointment to the CEC for its inconsistency in allowing Zingiswa Losi to continue to be involved in the Federation activities including chairing of meetings while she is suspended by her affiliate. This really confirms the paralysis and the factional situation in which COSATU find herself.

There is now a concerted effort to gag the provinces who want to express themselves on these matters. Meetings of PEC's including in the Eastern Cape are being inexplicably deferred pending the presence and permission of National Office Bearers of both COSATU and those of affiliates. This is not the agreed practice, nor is it reflected in the COSATU Constitution. These strong arm tactics to quell dissent will fail, and we will make them fail in the name of worker control and democracy.

For this reason we are refusing the edict from above that the PEC cannot meet, and intend to take matters into our own hands and convene a properly constituted PEC with the ten or more affiliates who are prepared to defy the dictates of an unaccountable leadership. Both the previous PEC and the Shop Stewards Council demanded an unambiguous statement of support for a Special National Congress and for the reinstatement of Comrade Vavi and hands off NUMSA and Thobile Ntola. .

This they have dismally failed to carry out, thus losing any credibility with those whom they are supposed to be accountable to.



We are continuing to demand the immediate reinstatement of Comrade Vavi and an end to searching for dirt in order to create further trumped up charges against him.

We urge all unions to make sure that Comrade Vavi is invited to meetings to give his side of the story, and to once again provide the clear leadership that we need now more than ever.

We salute all those unions and union provincial structures who have refused to be intimidated by the bureaucratic and unconstitutional measures of the current leadership faction. We urge them all to stand behind the demands for an SNC, the reinstatement of Comrade Vavi, and for an end to the divisive victimisation of COSATU affiliates.

To this end we are calling to all likeminded affiliates who are in support of the Special National Congress to pronounce the date for the congress with or without the National leadership as there is no political will to observe and respect the dictates of the very constitution that is supposed to be the supreme commander of all and sundry to convene the congress soon.

The attempts to want to dismiss NUMSA from COSATU will be defended by all might we have as the affiliated unions.

HANDS OFF COSATU

HANDS OFF ZWELINZIMA VAVI

HANDS OFF THOBILE NTOLA

HANDS OFF NUMSA

For comment contact:

CWU	:Macvica Dyasopu	0842542882
DENOSA	: Koliswa Tota	0827760963
FAWU	: Luyanda Matuntuta	0824931235
SAMWU	: Siphiwo Ndunyana	0784040482
SADTU	: Mncekeleli Ndongeni	0605201469
NUMSA	: Pumzile Nodongwe	0788023140

