



WHY? WORKERS SHOULD VOTE ANC

WHY THE WORKERS VOICE COSATU SAY ANC IS THE WORKERS CHOICE FOR THE 2024 ELECTIONS

COSATU CALLS ON WORKERS TO VOTE ANC BECAUSE:

The ANC led the Struggle for Freedom, and no other Party can take half of the credit due to the ANC for bringing Freedom and Democracy in our land. Its leaders and members suffered severely for their efforts to achieve a United Democratic Non-Racial and Non-Sexist South Africa. Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison, Oliver Tambo spent over 30 years in exile, were hanged, and thousands shot by apartheid police in the streets, butchered, battered, and maimed in their homes, townships, villages, schools, churches, trains, and taxis. This unparalleled record makes the ANC the only Party and the Alliance formations (Mass Democratic Movement) we can entrust with our hard-won Freedom.

Workers should never allow Our Country to go back to apartheid and Bantustans. Have we forgotten about White Privileges, White South Africans are privileged because of the historical legacies of colonialism and apartheid, which saw the transfer of a vast amount of the country's resources into the hands of white European migrants. The privileged position of those classified "white" gave every single individual, so classified, a massive advantage over their fellow citizens in the various "non-white" categories.

In the workplace, white people are considered competent, in public their behaviour rarely interpreted as suspicious, and in shops see them as potential customers, not criminals. Let us expose and encrypt for all generations to know that we may forgive but not forget. COSATU is not just asking workers to vote for the ANC for sentimental reasons. Our critics say the ANC and government have made mistakes and they are correct. We have not been shy as COSATU to criticize our comrades when they fall short and to demand action against those who fail workers. But the ANC is still the only political party that has repeatedly stood with COSATU and workers. Those who say do not tell us about the past and correctly ask what have you done now?

It is this 6th administration that passed into law a National Minimum Wage raising the wages of 6 million farm, domestic, security, construction, retail, and other workers. No one could predict in 2019, fresh from the elections, that we would be compelled to go into a global lockdown to manage the devastating COVID-19 pandemic. This came at a cost of more than 100 000 lives and 2 million jobs. Despite these massive challenges, President Ramaphosa decisively led us.

We worked closely with government and business as labour at NEDLAC. Together we rolled out vaccines to over 60% of South Africans, mobilised millions to adopt the PPEs and other health and safety interventions. We delivered a massive relief package releasing R64 billion from the Unemployment Insurance Fund to help 6 million workers, billions in tax relief to help businesses avoid collapse and the SRD Grant helping 10 million unemployed. These came with serious challenges of corruption, but they saved the nation from total collapse. It is this spirit of social compact between government, business and labour that is key to rebuilding the state, growing the economy, reducing unemployment.

The Compensation of Occupational Injuries and Diseases Amendment Act came into effect extending cover to 900 000 domestic workers. The Employment Equity Amendment Act also came into effect requiring companies doing business with the state to follow the Employment Equity and the National Minimum Wage Act. As we head towards the last stretch of this administration, it is fundamental that we finish what we committed to in the 2019 manifesto.

PARLIAMENT MUST PASS THE:

The National Health Insurance Bill is to create quality and affordable healthcare for all. On the Land question the Expropriation Bill is to accelerate access for land for the poor in all communities. Although not convincing in terms of its tax implications which are to be negotiated to zero taxation from workers, the two pot pension reform bills to allow struggling workers prompt access to parts of their pension funds.

A broader context must be considered to use this as relief of distressed households in terms of paying long term loans which in essence are drowning consumers due to unending or prolonged interests especially the bonds, cars, and overdraft. Moreover, the Companies Amendment Bill to compel companies to show the wage gaps between the highest and lowest paid employees and are compelled to publish Annual Reports as part of transparency. The Public Procurement Bill to tackle state corruption and boost localisation. Whilst we applaud the progress made, we must not hide the failures. We must remember the wise words of Amilcar Cabral, "tell no lies, claim no easy victories".

Corruption stays a cancer throughout society, with our own comrades included. We welcome the progress made within the ANC and government to renew and to remove, expel, arrest, prosecute and convict those who have stolen so much. But more must be done. Part of our demand is that SARS must be empowered to conduct lifestyle audits, the headcount of the SAPS must be boosted, courts must be

resourced to fast-track corruption cases. State capture took a massive toll on the state. The crises at Eskom, Transnet, Prasa, the SABC, Post Office and municipalities have been devastating for workers. We welcome progress at Eskom, including its debt relief but more must be done to restore our SOEs and municipalities to be the enablers of economic growth they once were. Interventions must take place in local government to ensure their employees are paid accordingly. All employers including the state must respect collective bargaining and our labour laws. We are still opposed to privatization and any attempt to weaken the state's role.

OUR OWN SUPPORTERS ASK WHY THEY SHOULD VOTE FOR THE ANC IN 2024?

They have the right to be angry as we all are. But the working class simply does not have the luxury of giving up, of handing our country over to criminals. We have come too far to abandon the struggle for a better life for all. We have made too much progress and have too much still to do instead of simply walking away. What is needed now is to accelerate the cleansing of the ANC, rebuilding the state and our SOEs, finishing the remaining Bills at Parliament, increasing access to the SRD Grant and the Presidential Employment Programme for the poor and unemployed, arresting those who break the law, abuse women, and steal from the poor.

COSATU has decided, working with the ANC and the SACP to ensure not only do we have a bold and progressive 2024 manifesto to deliver better life for all, and that we ensure the Alliance appears with an absolute majority across the nation by still being united at all material times. Now is the time to roll up our sleeves, unite the movement, fix the state, grow the economy, reduce unemployment, and heal the nation to live in peace and prosperity. Workers have achieved what they have achieved so far because the ANC's attitude towards workers even though there are challenges to resolve. We appreciate the ANC for having built a Better Life for our People however, workers aren't happy about corruption in the Public and Private Sector. The biggest achievements workers have registered under the ANC government.

THE ANC HAS PROTECTED AND PROMOTED WORKERS' RIGHTS:

Our constitution gives workers the Rights, to form and join unions or associate with any organization of their choice, and in the workplaces have the strike and picket, and conclude Union Security Agreements such as, Closed shop and Agency shop, the Right to Collective Bargaining, and through the Alliance we managed to block the inclusion of the Lock-out clause in the Constitution.



IN ADDITION TO THESE CONSTITUTIONALLY GUARANTEED RIGHTS:

The ANC has passed Laws to protect and give rights to workers which we never tasted under Apartheid. Apartheid is to blame for ills facing the workers and the working class, this includes the difficulties facing the ANC in Government. The ANC has done this through enacting Employment Legislations that include the following:

The Labour Relations Act of 1995 (LRA) prevents, Unfair Dismissals, Unfair Labour Practices, and Victimisation. It regulates the Registration and Governance of Trade Unions while promoting orderly Collective Bargaining. It further set up the CCMA (Commission for Conciliation and Arbitration) to expeditiously resolve unfair dismissals, unfair labour practise, retrenchments, and other related disputes. The LRA also creates the specialised employment related courts being the Labour Court and the Labour Appeal Court. The LRA regulates the Right to Strike and introduced a detailed process to ensure that workers could take part in a Protected Strike. This Act also promotes Centralised Bargaining that helps workers to supply solidarity to vulnerable workers.

The Basic Conditions of Employment Act No 75 of 1997, which provides that all workers decent minimum conditions; including leave, reasonable hours of work and overtime pay. In support to the BCEA the ANC Government has also introduced the National Minimum Wage Act 9 of 2018 (NMWA) that sets the National Minimum Wage and allows the CCMA to resolve disputes of unpaid workers. The Skills Development Act 97 of 1998 (SDA) in the main introduces the Sector Education Training Authorities (SETA's) requires all employers to contribute 1% of employee reward to the Skills Levy to support the skills levy grant system. The skills levy supports the Learnership and Skills Programme Grants, Bursaries, and Workplace Experience for Unemployed Learners. The SDA supports recognition of workers' existing skills gained through experience called Recognition of Prior Learning.

Workers and unions have a voice in developing Training Plans in Workplaces and Industries. The Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998 (EEA) prohibits unfair discrimination in the workplace and introduces affirmative action. It requires employers to do more to promote representation of Black people and Women workers in more senior and better paying positions. The health and safety laws {e.g., Health and Safety Act, Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (COIDA) and the Mine Health Safety Act (MHSA)} have been consolidated and give workers many rights, including the right to form Workplace Committees to ensure health and safety, the right to compensation for job-related injuries and diseases, and the right to refuse doing dangerous work.

The ANC government has also prohibited compulsory testing for diseases such as HIV and AIDS. These laws provided workers with a comprehensive package that workers all over the world would feel lucky to have. Political Parties who are asking workers to vote for them opposed these laws protecting workers in parliament, and still want to weaken them. Like the employers, they complain that these laws give too much protection to workers which often impedes investment. The ANC has given our people a Voice in the State through Democratic Institutions at all levels.

The ANC government has set up consultative processes, including NEDLAC that let poor people's organisations like COSATU influence policy decisions. It has set up a framework for strong, participatory local government through Local Labour Forum, Ward Meetings of all categories. It has also set up School and Hospital Boards and other structures to aid communities in overseeing their Local Institutions. If the ANC loses power, the right-wing political parties like the DA, Action SA, Freedom Front, African Christian Democratic Party do not make it a secret that they will reverse these gains made by the ANC.

SOCIAL GAINS AND RIGHTS

In addition, the ANC government has built a million houses that supply shelter to millions of people. Improved access to education by building thousands of new classrooms

and ensured that 4.5 million children receive free meals at school. Extended social grants to Seven million more people, including both old-age and childcare grants. Extended clean water to over 80% of all households, and electricity to over 70% of households. Ensured all our people have fair access to healthcare, with free healthcare for mothers and children under six years old and built hundreds of new clinics. Developed plans to roll out treatment of AIDS with anti-retroviral drugs, which can stop the disease from worsening for years. We know that progress has often been slower than we expected when we won the great victory against apartheid ten years ago. We could not overcome three hundred years of colonialism and apartheid in a single decade. Only the ANC can make government do even more for transformation and, where needed, deal with problem areas.

COSATU stays unhappy with government's record on jobs. COSATU is unhappy with job losses, and job creation has been terribly slow. Moreover, casual, outsourced, and informal jobs have replaced permanent, quality jobs. It must be known that COSATU still disagrees with the government's Austerity measures. We will continue to campaign against privatisation of basic services. We believe Government should have moved much faster to develop a Comprehensive Prevention and Treatment Strategy for HIV and Aids. We are happy on how the ANC Government managed the pandemic although there are sizeable wastages, disregard of vaccines from China, Brazil, Russia, and Cuba, possibly because the funds were controlled by the IMF and the World Bank. Still, the gains of the past thirty years far outweigh the setbacks. As an independent organisation, COSATU can always disagree with the ANC Government on issues.

Endorsing the ANC during the elections does not mean those disagreements suddenly disappear. But the areas where we agree far outweigh the areas of disagreements. Hence the request to workers. In contrast, we can never agree on key principles with the other parties aligned to the Bosses and the Rich. COSATU will continue to engage the ANC around Key Policy issues. But we can only reach our goals if we as workers make sure that the ANC scores a strong win in this election. We must take forward our programme toward 2035, which we agreed at our Congress last year. In it, we said COSATU must make sure workers have a strong voice in elections, in ANC structures, and in all Democratic Institutions. Therefore, critical that all our Shop Stewards, activists and members work for an ANC Victory and close ranks. We must campaign so that all workers and communities vote ANC in defence of hard-won achievements. That is the only way we can Protect Workers' Rights and their Political and Social Gains. Every worker must vote ANC.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING.

Elections have consequences. Every vote matters. You have the power to make key decisions on the quality of life you want for yourself, your family, and your community. Voting is your chance to stand up for the issues you care about like affordable housing, economic justice, environmental protection, and quality education, quality jobs, self-employment, skills development and total emancipation of the workers and the working class. It is your right. Not voting is giving up your voice. Today, most South African citizens over the age of 18 are eligible to vote in National and Provincial elections, but voting was not a right prior to 1994.

The right to franchise in South Africa has a complex history. Before the Union in 1910, the franchise was discriminatory. However, the journey towards universal adult franchise began, and achieved in 1994 when all South Africans, regardless of race, were able to vote in Democratic Elections. The process involved significant struggles and changes in legislation over the years. We now have the Constitution which guarantees us the right to vote, remember right became limited soon after the WW1 and WW2 wars which we fought side by side with our fellow citizens but at the end of it they disposed us, and unleashed separate development, underdevelopment, and other forms of hubris conundrums. Today we have this right at the behest of unwavering sacrifices of our people

who sacrificed their lives and for us to gain freedoms we have that cannot be compromised by chronic pseudo politicians whose intentions is to collapse the revolution by selling it to the highest bidder. Our vote is not free, has conditions attached to our list of demands from the ruling party. It is your money.

One way or the other, every person in our community pays taxes – both citizens and non-citizens. And yet, most people do not know the use of money. Voting is your chance to choose how your taxation, such as added funding for the national Health Insurance, Health Care Services, and a comprehensive and responsive Social Security Services. This happens both through your vote on specific propositions and ballot measures, as well as those we elect to leadership positions that commit to supporting key social services in our communities. Deal with the crisis of social reproduction, abject poverty, destitute and homelessness, apprehend crime against citizens, eradicate backwardness and behaviours and live within the spirit of UBUNTU.

Advance the worker control phenomenon for workers to penetrate the key sites of production through progressive collective investments to better the lives of the workers and the working across generations. Voting is an opportunity for change for the better. It cannot be business as usual for politicians who after being voted then decide who to align with in their luxurious board rooms, in fact we need to delink luxury from political responsibilities, more emphasis be on accountability, transparency, and that there is no law shall be passed without our voices of endorsement.

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Voting gives you that chance! There are social issues affected by elections, including (but not limited to) gay marriage, reproductive rights, environmental issues, public education. Social issues affect everyone in one way or another. To have a say in who gets to decide social agendas, it is essential to vote. The community depends on you! Our communities of family, friends, loved ones, neighbours, siblings and children. We may not know how important voting is, while others cannot vote. Make the decision to vote to be a voice for yourself and those around you. Make sure your voice must be the loudest and your vote is your Health. VOTE ANC! to help have influence in your community during these general elections. COSATU, SACP, SANCO and progressive forces says VOTE the ANC to Protect yourselves from subjugation. Seize the moment and never regret!

URGENT ACTION BY ALL WORKERS

By visiting our website, you can check your registration status, voting locations, and download other resources to help get out the vote in your community. If you do not qualify to vote, you can still take part through volunteering.

GET INFORMED.

Read up on issues (both Local and National) and figure out where you stand. Be able to offer helpful information about what to expect on next year's ballot, the face of the campaign is President Cyril Ramaphosa, and each voter must know the ANC brand in totality as there are black green and gold parties who look to confuse voters.

NEVER GET CONFUSED.

Your vote is in defence of the Revolution Against Capitalism, Right Wings, Conservatism and White Supremacy to forever subjugate Africans.

DO NOT GIVE UP NOR SUBMERGE.

The overly confident ANC must relook how the electoral act has been compromising it for years in memorial.

GET OUT AND TALK TO PEOPLE.

Even if you cannot vote, you can still voice opinions in public forums. When people engage each other about the issues, we stand to become better-informed citizens. Volunteer.

ALUTA CONTINUA!

