



CLOSING ADDRESS TO THE 2ND NATIONAL POLICY CONFERENCE OF POPCRU 27 JULY 2014 ST GEORGES HOTEL, IRENE

Comrade Chairperson,
Members of the National Executive Committee, Officials and
Leaders of the Progressive Affiliates within COSATU and the entire mass
democratic movement,
Policy Conference Delegates
Comrades & Compatriots
Ladies and gentlemen...

We have reached the conclusion of our successful Policy Conference which sparked critical discussions about the organisation and its direction. Our meeting during these three days was intended at reviewing our policies and formulating new ones where the need arises. I can safely attest that this objective has been met and I have to congratulate you comrades for working in earnest in order to fully dissect the amount of work on your plates. Each and every policy that POPCRU adopts is to advance the National Democratic Revolution (NDR). Amongst the many objectives of the NDR is the intention to build a non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous society governed by fairness. Key to the achievement of this is the presence of a sound leadership in the country and in the movement structures. Comrade Chairperson, we heard yesterday as Comrade Charles Setsubi from the SACP interrogated the qualities of a great leader. He spoke harshly against self-praise and self-appointment. I believe it is the lack of the latter characteristics which differentiate POPCRU from others.

When this conference sat for the first time in 2010, a path was paved by delegates of that gathering. Their work which was to formulate policies was aligned to the organisation's vision and strategy. This was an important step comrades, because having a dream about the kind of POPCRU we want to see 25 years down the line can only materialise if we have progressive policies. The speakers who addressed the conference made regular references to the mannerism and culture of POPCRU. I have to agree with President Sdumo

Dlamini of COSATU that indeed political discipline is a necessary ingredient without which we would not be able to achieve our goals. Hence we have once again reaffirmed our commitment to serve our members diligently. All the activities of the past three days were for the benefit of our members and the organisation at large. In our analysis we keep tracing our way back to the resolutions made in our past conferences and congresses. This is done so that we keep in line with the greater vision of the organisation. I believe this conference could not have come at a better time as it becomes very important to take this step of ensuring we are still on the right path ahead of our 25th anniversary this November.

We have renewed strength and energy to keep fighting for the unity of purpose in the alliance. In the opening of the conference I spoke frankly about our stance in relation to matters at COSATU. There are some situations which necessitate decisive action as we cannot watch as the mountain catches fire. The likelihood of that fire trickling down to everyone beneath it increases in the absence of action. We say to you that you leave here today having a better understanding of how POPCRU functions and what our stance of various matters is. Comrades you now have to make sure that our members on the ground understand why we make these decisions. Our actions as a collective in every sphere of our reach whether in the alliance or departments are guided by principles and guidelines which we can never deviate from. Policy must always be followed by actions if we are to fully realise the work of the past three days. Most of us in this hall are responsible for carrying out the plan of action that follows policy and it is for this reason that I am confident we will reach greater heights. Understanding what we want to see happen and how we want to go about this can only be a great plus for us. We will continue working from a vantage point over our adversaries. As we depart to our respective provinces, let us remember the plight of the people of Gaza. Their bombardment by Israel continues unabated and the death roll keeps rising. We also want to openly declare our unequivocal support for the Palestinian people in their continued struggle for self-determination and peace. Comrades let us join the rallies organised by the Mass Democratic Movement against the killing machine of Israel. We have agreed in this Policy Conference that we are action driven and

we will demonstrate this in our every-day life. I thank you for having taken part in this conference and wish you all a safe journey back home.

Amandla!!