

CLOSING ADDRESS TO THE POPCRU CEC

06 NOVEMBER 2013

ST GEORGE HOTEL - CENTURION



Chairperson...

Members of the POPCRU CEC

Delegates from the POPCRU Group of Companies

Comrades and Compatriots...

We have arrived at the end of our Central Executive Committee. Our deliberations aimed at strengthening our union and the Mass Democratic Movement at large have been fruitful and fulfilling. We met here under Chapter 5 of our Constitution in which clause 11.2.2 states that we do so in order to give broad direction covering organizational, political, educational and policy issues within the Union. In the different commissions which presented its reports in front of all of us we consciously took decisions which will take our organization to greater heights.

Comrades, we were addressed by several speakers who spoke boldly and proudly about what we represent as a union and how far out our influence stretches. And all I can say to most of that praise is that we are indeed a union at work. We have developed methods of ensuring that our struggle isn't filled with empty words and promises to members. We witnessed last night as comrades from different structures won awards, a bold indication that this train is well oiled and moving in the right direction.

We are stronger and wiser because of the contributions of those who graced our CEC with their presence, but there is no greater joy than seeing your determination and unity in purpose as demonstrated in the past three days. The resolve of this CEC is clear on a lot of issues which have been raised by both yourselves and us as a leadership collective. We shall remain bold unmoved as we leave this CEC on our decision to support the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service against the forces which seek to dictate to us who should lead this key institution. We will also continue to speak truth to power when coming to matters in the federation because it is our COSATU and the onus lies with us to protect it and wage an indomitable fight against anyone who seeks to divide it. Comrades, it is our COSATU.

We have heard ANC NEC member Thoko Didiza expressing the important role we will be playing in next year's elections. We will mobilise our children, neighbours, church members and even enemies to go and vote the African National Congress because there is absolutely no other Political Party that can deliver the people of this country from the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. Our members are bestowed with the honour of protecting the dignity and authority of our elections in the coming year and we do not take that for granted. The time has come for us to move our attention from the noisy and immature rejects who want us to lose our focus by running to the media and courts in an attempt to get our eyes off the ball. We should be vigilant of such individuals whose sole purpose is to disrupt our resolve to win a two-thirds majority in 2014.

Comrades, we turned 24 last night. In human life terms we are in our early twenties heading to the mid-twenties. During these times, if you are

a woman, the parents wish that you could find a suitor who will honour you with marriage and if you're a man, the family begins to look to you for financial support. We are fortunate to have found our suitors at this age. Our affiliation to the revolutionary World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) is the ideal marriage of true minds. Our ideology isn't lost but at home where it will be strengthened and nurtured. As indicated in our Financial Reports, we are also growing from strength to strength, able to assist those less fortunate amongst us and even those who may find themselves in really financially compromised situations.

Many of you have received your new membership cards, which comrades are a FIRST in this country. We are breaking new ground and I am sure the parents of this organization, the founder leaders are proud of what this 24 year old organization has grown into. The special birthday message by ANC Deputy-President, Comrade Cyril Ramaphosa should be our motivation to do more for our members and for this country. As we all get ready to head to our different provinces, may we take the words of every speaker to all the corners of this country and tell our members that POPCRU is alive and well. May we share with them that we are a united organization that loves them and want to do nothing else but ensure they are empowered to lead better lives. And most importantly, that POPCRU loves them.

We are approaching an incredible year, and know that we will win the elections next year with a roaring majority. But there is work to be done and who else better to do it but us who love the ANC. Comrades have a great festive season, be safe and represent all of us well in all that you do. Have a safe journey back home. I thank you.