

. Cnmghoya x2333 W3)

CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS

COSATU ETERN CAPE REGION

MASS ACTION CAMPAIGN ASSESSMENT - 1Q EDATED!

1. POLITICAL

1.1.

Our Mass Action Campaign met some of its Political objectives. It managed to bring therefore together our Democratic Forces in action. We saw our Tripartite Alliance practically pulling together in planning and implementing its activities. We managed to registra point to the Regime and the International Community as well. The fact that there were no violent confrontation between our masses and the enemy forces was a victory in our Region, it reflects discipline and the role played by Marshalls.

The Resolution of our Regional Congress not to pay bail but ratter use arrests as a mobilising factor proved victorious. We also met the police and pressurised for the releases. In many instances we marched without permit.

In general our people showed their unwavering support for the Tripartite Alliance and its Allies. This was a blow to De Klerk whose false-propaganda about the alliance and its support was countered by true facts and a reality. 3rd and 4th August 1992 stayaway - COSATU members and non-members heeded the call for a stayaway.

The success and Political impact of our Mass Action resulted in the opening up of the Political space which Alliance partners in particular and the Democratic Movement in general need to use effectively.

We need in this process to transform the mass support of our masses into a qualitative organisational recruitment for our organisations. This is crucial and falls within our campaign for an Interim Government and elections for a Constituent Assembly.

This we can achieve by sustaining the Mass Action with a focus on local demands, rural areas and small towns.

1.2. MOOD OF THE MASSES

We need to realise that although the masses of our people were out in large numbers, the mood needs to be built in up stages. The rolling mass action fitted exactly in this.

The Eastern Cape had what we call "Volunteers", those people who were ready for picketing, marching, etc on a daily basis and were drawn from the unemployed. People later joined in from all quarters. We should never underestimate the people's capacity to take action even on rainy days, or even travelling long distances.

1.3. RELATIONSHIP BUILT WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The Tripartite Alliance was the engine of our Mass Action. the planning a combination of COSATU, ANC and SACP positions. Strategy and tactics - were here.

We have what we call a "Broad Forum" which normally comprises of : Education structures, CIVICS, AZAPO. PAC, NACTU, Small Business, Taxi Organisations, Churches etc. This is where we discuss and adopt the Programme Of Action. i

It would be important to note that the NACTU, PAC and AZAPO were not present in our Mass Action Planning. They are of course i.e. between very weak and non existent. Church Ministers are always in the forefront of our marches.

2. ORGANISATIONAL

2.1. It is important to note that 80 - 90% of non - Union members as well as members of other Unions joined in the Mass Action. There is clear eagerness of non - Unionised workers to join Trade Unions but servicing is lacking in the smaller shops and garages.

:k In COSATU some Afiiliates failed to communicate COSATU Local decisions clearly to the membership as well as planning the practicalities of implementing such decisions.

3.1.

3.2.

Page 3

5k Building permanent campaign structures has always been a problems, but democratically elected cadres for a particular well planned campaign has proved to be effective. Each organisation in this instance forwarded people to the Campaign Co-ordinating Committee which was sub - divided into, Finance Committee, Transport Committee etc etc.

it It helps to be creative. To the Eastern Cape, occupation meant both numbers of people and blockages, used simultaneously.

b We made sure that all workers left work at 10.00am on Wednesday 5th August 1992 and marched from different directions to the city while taxis embarked on a "drive slow" and ultimately blocked off main roads.

:k People from time to time would virtually sit for 10 - 15 minutes in the middle of the street or road.

In the past two weeks of Mass Action we learnt that the strength of each organisation in each locality would differ and this has to be taken into consideration to make each action a success.

In most memorandas, press releases and posters presented to authorities we always reflected National as well as Regional and Local demands.

There were :

Interim Government / Rejection of Bantustans

Constituent Assembly / Corrupt Government

Jobs and no retrenchment / Adequate affordable health facilities

Houses / electricity / refuse removal / food prices etc.

VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

State harassment was limited only to occupations, even then masses pressurised for people's release.

We never provoked the police but sought their co-operation.

3.3. The United Nations and the National Peace Secretariat played a very positive role particularly in diffusing volatile situations of the Ciskei Police and AWB in Despatch

RESPONSE OF EMPLOYERS

Some of the major factories in the Eastern Cape, Border and Transkei agreed to close down during the two days.

Most employers adopted a no work no pay no disciplinary action. There are of course those factories who decided to take disciplinary action against workers who observed the two day stayaway. Some companies issued written warnings and some dismissed workers.

In those circumstances the affected Affiliates intervened and some managed to secure the reinstatement of the dismissed and the withdrawal of written warnings. However there are those employers who are still refusing to co-operate on the issue and those workers remain dismissed and the warnings still valid.

Although when compared to the last VAT Campaign strike some change in the attitude of the employers can be noticed in terms of dismissals and other related forms of victimization. Maybe this can be attributed to the level of organisation and mobilization for the campaign and the momentum it gained before the week of the 3rd and 4th August 1992.

This surely left the employers uncertain about their response to the workers in many companies. Most of the companies (noticeable in Port Elizabeth) that took disciplinary actions against workers reacted on the activities of the 5th, 6th and 7th August 1992.

Very few COSATU Affiliates responded to the request from the Regional Office Bearers for a detailed report on post general strike dismissals and victimisations. CAWU East London Branch - 120 workers were dismissed from Cementile factory the matter has been referred to COSATU lawyers for action. The matter is handled by CAWU Head Office.

FAWU Port Elizabeth Branch - 64 workers were dismissed from Epol, the matter is being handled by FAWU a meeting was scheduled for 13th July 1992 between FAWU and Epol Management. This matter has been settled and workers are back at work as at 20 August 1992.

CAWU Port Elizabeth Branch - 32 workers have been dismissed from two factories - 24 from one factory and 8 from the other factory. The Regional office is awaiting a confirmation from CAWU on legal advice needed. CAWU Head office is handling the matter. No further victims have been reported.

M

5.1.

The Media is good but needs to be improved especially when it comes to colour of posters and the figures. Colours need to be bright and clear. Drawings should reflect anger e.g. COSATU 4th National Congress poster.

5.2. It was difficult to assess coverage as we have boycotted newspapers in Port Elizabeth. In the Border Region coverage was fair.

WAY FORWARD

6.1. The key political tasks facing us are - how do we sustain the mood of the masses further such that De Klerk and his Government meet our demands soon.

6.2. We have decided to focus on issues that more Regional and Local e.g. houses, health services, pensions etc.

6.3. The PAYE, Violence and food price campaigns are crucial at this