



# MAYDAY

ORGANISE! RESIST!  
FIGHT FOR A LIVING  
WAGE!



# One and Many

Because we are many, and we many are one,  
we can win this war for freedom  
we can win this war for human existence.  
Because we are many more than them,  
we can win this war for food and housing  
and comfort and knowledge and power.

We will write poems and dramas for those who build  
houses for the people and the poets.  
We will perform music and dances for those that bake  
bread for the children and the dancers.  
We, the many, will have songs of victory and songs of defeat  
to remind us: alone we are helpless and victims of power,  
together we win the war and we win our life:  
together means union, united in struggle  
together means workers united to win.

MAY DAY 1987  
Athlone Stadium



SAHA

# MAY DAY



## WORKERS UNITE FOR A LIVING WAGE!



# WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

## MAY DAY IS OURS!

May Day belongs to the workers of the world!  
May Day belongs to the workers of South Africa!  
**MAY DAY IS OURS!**

On May Day every year, workers all over the world come together to celebrate May Day. We remember setbacks, but we also remember our victories. Everywhere we know about bad conditions in our factories and communities; we all know about attacks from the bosses and the government; we all need unity and solidarity to take our struggle forward to a new society.

In 1986 workers in COSATU said: "May Day belongs to us!" Hundreds and thousands of workers have won May Day as a paid holiday. Through COSATU we built the unity and the strength to reject the "Labour Day" that Botha offered us, and to claim May 1st as our own.

Over 100 years ago workers said: "No more exploitation from the

bosses! We demand an 8-hour working day!" This was the beginning of May Day. On 1st May 1886, 350 000 workers in America went on strike for an 8-hour day. They won a big victory. Today in South Africa we are also fighting exploitation by the bosses. We are demanding a Living Wage and a 40-hour week! Less hours, more jobs, more money.

We also know about the attacks from the bosses and the government. During the big May Day strike in America in 1886, the police killed six workers and four of their leaders were later hanged. Today the Botha government is using the State of Emergency and the new Labour Law to attack workers and our communities. When we meet on May Day we speak with the voice of working class unity and solidarity. We strengthen our organisations to defend ourselves.

Workers in South Africa have been celebrating May Day for over 80



# COSATU says: M

# WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!



years. Today we unite on May Day around our shared demands:

- a living wage for all!
- jobs for all!
- decent housing for all!

Today the Youth, Unemployed, Students, Women and Civics join the unions to celebrate May Day. May Day is a symbol of the leadership of the working class in our united struggle for democracy and freedom.

May Day is ours. It is a day which belongs to the workers in South Africa. It is a day which belongs to the workers of the world. It is a day which we share with all our allies in the struggle against oppression and exploitation. It is a day we celebrate our unity and solidarity in our struggle for a better life for all. This year, and every year, our May Day is on May 1st. Organise May Day meetings on Sunday May 1.

**FORWARD FROM MAY DAY TO COSATU SPECIAL CONGRESS!  
FORWARD AGAINST THE LABOUR BILL AND THE RESTRICTIONS!**

**FORWARD WITH THE STRUGGLE FOR A LIVING WAGE!**



## OUR DEMANDS:

- a living wage for all
- 40-hour week without loss of pay
- May Day, June 16 and Sharpville Day as paid public holidays
- job security
- no tax deductions
- 6 months paid maternity leave
- an end to the hostel system and decent housing near places of work
- the right to decent education and training

# May Day is ours!