

anti privatisation forum



What is the Anti-Privatisation Forum (APF)?

The APF brings together community organisations, workers' groups and activists groups.

We oppose privatisation because it means that the minority's hunger for profit comes before the needs of people.

Privatisation causes retrenchments, low wages and speed-ups at work. In our homes, privatisation causes electricity and water cut-offs and evictions. It leads to higher prices for services and expensive education.

The APF stands for free water and electricity. We say housing, water, electricity, jobs at a living wage and education are a right, not a privilege.

The government is following the bosses' agenda by privatising. This means it is breaking its promises to the majority. The APF stands for the needs of the working class (the workers and the unemployed) against the capitalists' agenda of profit at any cost.

Where did the APF come from?

The APF was formed in July 2000 around two important struggles, the opening shots in the anti-privatisation battle. These were the struggle against iGoli 2002 in Johannesburg, and the struggle against Wits 2001 at Wits University. Both of these attacks on the working class were a direct result of the

GEAR policy of the ANC government.

We say these battles affect all of us: the workers whose jobs are threatened, the communities whose services are affected, the young people whose education is affected. One of the main goals of the APF is to co-ordinate working class struggles against privatisation.

How does the APF do things?

The APF is not an organisation whose members are asked to fold their arms while the leaders disappear for five years to betray us. The APF is building a mass movement on the ground. We have to organise ourselves from below to fight for our rights. Mass action is the only way to win a better life for the working class.

We build the movement through meetings, mass rallies, marches and demonstrations such as the giant demonstration against the WSSD. APF affiliates have made many marches to

demand our rights, including a march to 'dismiss' the mayor for being unaccountable. APF affiliates have organised action to block cut-offs or evictions and organised reconnection teams such as Operation Khanyisa, Operation Vulamanzi and Operation Buyel'endlini.

The APF holds many educational workshops that help equip us with the understanding and knowledge in our fight against privatisation. We also build solidarity for workers on strike, such as

the Samwu workers. We also are building solidarity with workers and poor people across Africa to oppose NEPAD, a programme of privatisation for the entire

continent. To join the APF is to become an organiser for the struggle in your community, workplace or school.

OUR BASIC DEMANDS

- An end to all privatisation programmes and the return of all privatised services and assets to the public sector, including outsourced and corporatised services.
- The immediate end and reversal of retrenchments that are the inevitable result of privatisation.
- The election of local government candidates who stand on anti-privatisation platforms.
- The free supply of 50l of water per person per day.
- The free supply of the minimum amount of electricity needed for health, hygiene, cooking and heating.
- The introduction of a progressive block tariff system, ensuring free lifeline services cross-subsidised from the rich to the poor, from high-end users to low end users.
- The scrapping of all arrears of the poor.
- An end to rent evictions and the attachment of household goods.
- An end to water and electricity cut-offs.
- A massive increase in the subsidy from national government to local government.
- The repudiation of the Apartheid debt.

How can I join the APF?

- To get active in the APF you can join one of its affiliates (see separate contact list for all APF affiliates). If there is no APF affiliate near you, phone the APF office on (011) 339-4121 and we will talk with you about how to get involved.
- Workers can form APF workers' groups in their workplace or union. These groups can pull people together to discuss how to build the struggle in your area. Students can also form APF student groups
- Encourage your union to become active in the APF.
- Organisations can also join the APF if they agree with the basic aims of the APF and our way of working.