

anti privatisation forum



No.1 Leyds Street, 3rd Floor COSATU House, Braamfontein, JHB (Tel: 339-4121)

We, the Anti-Privatisation Forum (APF) are making a public call to COSATU to unite against privatisation with community organisations and social movements. We have written a letter to COSATU NOBs suggesting a formal meeting between the APF and COSATU to discuss how we can unite and strengthen each others struggles against privatisation. The APF has been fighting privatisation by resisting electricity cut-offs, water cut-offs, evictions and forced removals.

DRAW THE CLASS LINE IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST PRIVATISATION

THE POOR

- WORKERS
- WORKING CLASS COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS
- THE LANDLESS
- THE UNEMPLOYED

SUFFER: WATER & ELECTRCITY CUT-OFFS; EVICTIONS; JOB LOSSES; INCREASED SERVICE CHARGES; INCREASED POVERTY; WORSENING WORKING CONDITIONS.

THE POOR GET POORER

THE RICH

- CAPITALIST BOSSES
- THE ANC GOVERNMENT
- MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS
- IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES

EXPERIENCE: INCREASED PROFITS; LESS TAXES; HUGE SALARIES & BENEFITS; A NEW BLACK ELITE; STRENGTHENING OF CAPITALISM;

THE RICH GET RICHER

WHERE DO YOU STAND?

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST PRIVATISATION – A CLASS STRUGGLE

The Anti-Privatisation Forum (APF) stands with all workers in the struggle against privatisation. Privatisation is a direct attack by the capitalist bosses, the ANC government, multinational corporations and imperialist countries on the entire working class – they are all on one side of the class line. On the other side of the class line are workers, working class community organisations and the landless, who must fight a common struggle to stop, and reverse, all forms of privatisation wherever they are being implemented. The struggle against privatisation is a class struggle – you are either on one side of the class line or the other.

Privatisation strengthens and consolidates the control and ownership of society by the capitalist class. As a result, profits decide the needs and rights of the people and democracy becomes something to be bought and sold. This is exactly what has happened under the capitalist ANC government that has shown, again and again, its total commitment to privatisation in all its various forms. It is the ANC government, in class co-operation with the capitalist bosses and multinational corporations, which has privatised basic services such as water, housing and electricity. It is the ANC government that continues to pursue the privatisation of key public sector utilities such as ESKOM, TRANSNET and TELKOM.

THE IMPACT OF PRIVATISATION ON WORKERS & COMMUNITIES

The ANC government's drive to privatise has resulted in hundreds of thousands of workers losing their jobs and millions more having to struggle just to earn a living wage and enjoy decent working conditions. This is the direct result of the GEAR programme. Meanwhile, the capitalist bosses and multinational corporations have gotten rich and fat, taking the wealth that workers produce all for themselves. Now they want to extend this oppression to the entire continent of Africa through NEPAD. It is the same privatisation programme of the ANC government that allows working class communities to suffer water and electricity cut-offs and housing evictions. All of us are suffering from privatisation and all of us must fight it together!

THE WEAPON AGAINST PRIVATISATION – THE UNITY OF THE WORKPLACE & COMMUNITY

The fight against privatisation in both the workplace and in the community is a fight of one class against another, the working class against the capitalist class. Such a fight can never be won if the working class is divided. In South Africa, the ANC government and its capitalist friends are doing all they can to ensure that we are divided. They will succeed as long as key sections of the working class continue to give political support to the capitalist ANC government, hoping that this will eventually lead to the end of privatisation and to the defeat of capitalism. The entire working class needs to draw the class line, both politically and economically – this is the only way we are going to bury the privatisation monster and move forward in our struggles for a new society in which people come before profits and in which the basic needs and rights of the majority are not simply privileges enjoyed by a rich minority.

JOIN THE MASS MOVEMENT AGAINST PRIVATISATION

The APF calls upon all COSATU workers to stand on the left side of the class line so that we can, as a united working class, fight and win. We have suffered long enough. We have been divided for too long. Let us join together and move forward to another South Africa, another world. It is more than a possibility – it is a necessity!! We are calling on COSATU workers to bring about the unity of the workplace and the community. We will be linking up with COSATU locals to discuss joint co-operation to take forward the struggle against privatisation.

TO CONTACT THE APF: PHONE (011) 339-4121 OR VISIT US AT COSATU HOUSE, 3RD FLOOR, No.1 LEYDS ST., BRAAMFONTEIN, JOHANNESBURG.