

## **Election Programme for COSATU as adopted at COSATU EXCO 10 July 1993**

### **1. Objectives**

COSATU has three main priorities in relation to the elections

- 1 1. To ensure a victory for an ANC that is ready and able to govern.
- 1 2. To build our organisation and prepare it for the struggles ahead
- 1 3. Worker's interests are foremost in an ANC led government.

### **2. Election programme**

The meeting looked at how COSATU should fit into the programme of action and phases of the ANC's election programme and decided on the following:

#### **2.1. Phase One: 1 June to 31 August: Preparation phase**

##### **2.1.1 Aims**

Our aim in this phase is to:

- \* reach out to all shop stewards
- \* build structures at national, regional and local level to implement election campaign.
- \* identify the personnel and material resources we can contribute to the campaign. This includes the release by unions of experienced comrades to work full time on the campaign.
- \* discuss COSATU's participation in the ANC's election list.

##### **2.1.2 Activities**

In this phase we should ensure that

- \* Elections are discussed at union congresses and the COSATU regional congresses scheduled for 18/19 July
- \* All regions and local's hold voter education workshops.
- \* COSATU regional and local leadership become involved in the regional and local Election Political Committees and other election structures being set up by the ANC.

##### **2.1.3 Release of COSATU comrades to campaign for elections**

Regions and affiliates need to decide by August CEC on:

- \* One person per affiliate to be released to be part of the COSATU election campaign. Such a person must be experienced. Discussion on such secondment should occur between affiliates and the COSATU NOB's.
- \* At least one shop steward per region, who could also be trained in the issues relating to development and the reconstruction programme.



#### 2.1.4 Media and publicity

The following media should be produced in this period.

- \* A pamphlet popularising the election date and identifying the election challenges and asking "Is COSATU ready?"
- \* An information sheet to shop stewards on factory floor voter education (see pt 4)
- \* The COSATU voter education manual
- \* A T-shirt which could be produced by trade union co-operatives.

In consultation with the ANC, we should consider July 27th (nine months away from the elections) as a public launch of the COSATU campaign. Election themes of COSATU and affiliates could be raised at the launch. Our themes should be consistent with those of the ANC's. The theme "Now is the time to vote for worker's rights" was proposed

#### 2.1.5 Fundraising

To ensure a successful election campaign, fundraising is essential. While COSATU is fundraising some money from our international trade union partners, affiliate should contribute a once off election levy. The money raised from the levy would be used for voter education. Affiliates need to discuss how much they can contribute and how and this issue will be finalised at the August CEC.

### 2.2. **Phase Two: 1 September to 10 December 1993: We are the ANC - We are ready to govern**

#### 2.2.1. Aims

The aims of this phase are to:

- \* Reach out to all our members, other workers and other sectors of the community.
- \* Agree on the Reconstruction programme and mobilise support for it
- \* Finalise the list and election manifesto.
- \* Build the public face of COSATU as part of the campaign.

#### 2.2.2. Activities/ Events

The following events/activities are or should be planned:

- \* COSATU Special Congress (September 10 -12) which will
  - \* Decide on the reconstruction programme and accord
  - \* Ratify the names of COSATU leaders on the election list.
  - \* Also input on the election list in general.
- \* A meeting with all other trade unions and union federations to identify key worker rights to be included in a new constitution, upon which we all agree.
- \* A Conference of Civil Society (by end of November) to mobilise support

- for the reconstruction programme and outline the role of organisations of civil society after the elections. This summit should also look at the issues of worker rights.
- \* Over December, when many of our members go home, we need to focus on a campaign to reach out to the rural areas. Particular attention must be given to migrant members so that they can reach out to their rural communities.
- \* Visits by leadership of the ANC and COSATU to work places, as well as holding of mass meetings.
- \* "Rehearsal for elections"

In this phase and in the following phase we should identify a set of three day and use them as a 'rehearsal' for the election period. In this period we should:

- \* have a plan on how to mobilise our resources e.g. cars, organisers and shop stewards for election day.
- \* reach out to as many workers as possible through factory and mine visits, media blitzes etc.
- \* mock elections

The dates will be decided upon at the CEC.

### 2.3. **Phase Three: 16 January to 31 March 1994: Mobilising for victory**

#### 2.3.1. Aims

The aims of this phase are to

- \* Reach out to all our members and as many workers as possible for a second time. In particular we need to focus on those who are undecided.
- \* Identify weak areas and sectors and prioritise action in these areas.
- \* Popularise the election manifesto, the reconstruction programme and election candidates.
- \* Prepare the ground work for the logistics of election days

#### 2.3.2. Activities/ Events

We need to use the March CEC and regional congresses following the CEC to make an assessment of our work and fine tune our strategy.

In this period:

- \* We need to do 'stock taking' of all the resources that COSATU can put at the disposal of the election campaign e.g. cars, offices.
- \* Have a second rehearsal in preparation for the election days (see above)

### 2.4. **Phase Four: 1 April to election day: Election week - victory week**

#### 2.4.1. Aims

The aims of this period are to

- \* Ensure everybody knows how to vote and where to vote.
- \* Arrange adequate security and monitoring
- \* Organise proper logistics for election days
- \* Deliver our members and supporters to the polls

#### 2.4.2 Activities

In this period we need to

- \* Get time off for thousands of shop stewards to participate in the final stages of the election campaign
- \* Commit all our resources to the election campaign
- \* Co-ordinate presence of international trade union monitors.

### 3. COSATU election structures

The present election task team should become a National COSATU Elections Committee whose role should include:

- \* strategising for and implementing the campaign.
- \* linking to the ANC campaign
- \* assists in the establishment of regional structures
- \* assist affiliates in developing their internal programmes.
- \* building the COSATU image in the campaign.
- \* ensure that there is a common COSATU message.

It should be run in an efficient and effective manner to ensure the maximum success of the campaign.

A computer monitoring system should be in place to monitor the progress of the campaign in terms of voter education and mobilisation of voters.

It is important that members of the COSATU elections committee as well as those who participate in ANC's structures are consistent to ensure effective participation. Unions need to consider sending representatives to strengthen the National Elections Committee.

### 4. Work place voter education

In some work places, management are already embarking upon voter education with or without the involvement of shop stewards. The following guidelines were recommended to respond to this situation:

We should embark upon the following programme to secure work place voter education:

- 4.1. Negotiate with management for shop stewards to be trained in voter education and for them to do such education. They should also be able to do voter education among other workers and in the community. This should be done on the basis of paid time off and during working hours.