



# COSATU

CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS

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8<sup>th</sup> October 2013

To: Cosatu Affiliates  
Cosatu Provinces

Attention: General Secretaries  
Provincial Secretaries

Dear Comrades

## Requests for a Special National Congress

It is almost 3 weeks since the September 2013 Cosatu Central Executive Committee received a report on the request for a Special National Congress. The CEC noted that the report also gave guidelines to the Cosatu President in carrying out this task as directed by the Cosatu Constitution.

Firstly, as Cosatu President I want to place on record that the Cosatu constitution is very clear on what is expected of the Cosatu President in executing his duties in terms of clause 3.3.2 of the constitution.

Secondly, I want to emphasise my commitment to respect and uphold the Cosatu constitution at all times. I am also equally committed to implement the CEC decision whenever I am directed to do so.

Thirdly, I understand the mandate that I was given at the previous CEC and I am committed to convene the Special National Congress as directed to do so.

Fourthly, since that CEC I have engaged the National Treasurer comrade Freda Oosthuysen to determine the available resources to take this work forward. I have also approached a few people for possible funding of the special congress. In a few days time I will be in a position to assess the nature of our resources and the need and extent for additional funding for the convening of a Special National Congress.

Fifthly, I have instructed the Secretariat to enquire about the availability of venues that are capable of accommodating the number of delegates that normally attend a Cosatu

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Congress, possible dates, and the number of days needed to hold such an event. I am expecting to receive such information within the next few days.

Sixthly, I need to remind all comrades, that this is not the first time that Cosatu has had to convene a Special National Congress. There are issues that have to be considered when such a meeting has to be convened. The September 2013 CEC highlighted some of them.

When the President issues a notice for such a Congress, the notice must have an agenda, and deal with issues like the venue, times, dates etc. As you may be aware, the unions that have requested a Special National Congress have advanced different reasons for their requests, and in the circumstances a process must be undertaken to assess whether the relevant unions and all other unions can reach agreement on a common agenda for the Congress. In addition, all previous National Congresses have had a theme, reports, resolutions, details of credentials etc. It is my considered view that in considering all these issues, there has to be input from the affiliates through the Central Executive Committee.

More importantly, I want to stress and assure all that as the Cosatu president I have no intention or interest to delay convening a Special National Congress. I have seen some media reports that have accused me of being reluctant to carry out this task. I have decided not to respond to anonymous allegations and sources in line with the decision of the previous CEC.

Finally, in the next few weeks I will update you on any relevant information that I would have gathered. I will also be asking the unions for relevant information relating to their readiness for the Special National Congress in line with our standard past practice in preparation for a National Congress and as per the directive of the September 2013 CEC.

I am looking forward to working with all of you in preparation for the Special National Congress.

Yours comradely



Sidumo Dlamini  
**COSATU PRESIDENT**

c.c **COSATU NOBs**

