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UNIVERSITY OF
FRIEDRICH-SCHLEGEL

COSAS NEC STATEMENT ON "DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING'S" RESPONSE TO
STUDENTS LEGITIMATE DEMANDS

Rev "AB 9"

The demands made by the students of our country, not out of outside influence but from our own practical experiences, for democratically elected and run genuine representation in our schools, must not be seen in isolation from other demands in workplaces, community and everywhere our People are. All these led to the drawing of the Freedom Charter which today is 29 years old and which stands for the demands of the People's Democratic South Africa.

It must be clear in the eyes of Department of Education and Training (Det) that the students of our country can never be fooled or bluffed any longer by such moves as imposing SRC's (Students Representative Council) constitution on them while when they stated a kind of representation they wanted they said "WE WANT FULL PARTICIPATION OF EVERY STUDENT IN THE DRAWING OF AN SRC CONSTITUTION".

COSAS sees the Det move of allowing its "SRC's" in our schools as part of reform campaign which is aimed at co-opting and causing confusion within our People, because the requirements put in the DET "SRC" constitution are very much different with the democratic process of SRC elections. And that we believe, the elections must be conducted on the basis of merit.

Also, what has become clear in the minds of many students is that, teachers' presence where students are discussing matters affecting them, turn to discomfort students. Therefore, when nominations take place teachers will be seen as a threat by the students because the clear point is that, students have grown up having no proper relationship with our teachers, (which is one of COSAS' aims, to create a spirit of understanding and co-operation between students and teachers)

As the DET constitution states that an SRC member must abide with the school rules. This is one other crucial issue, which students have been keep watch at, and it is to the interests of students too, and the entire community that this relationship between students, teachers' & parents, be seen in practice when deciding on matters directly affecting students (e.g. school rules).

Therefore we, in COSAS note with concern that

- DET in strong alliance with Mr. Le Grange are forcing the SADF into our townships to "preserve peace and order".
- our fellow students and UDF activists are being kept under the detention orders by the same Minister of "Law and Order", Mr Le Grange.

DET is still aggravating the situation by not bowing down to legitimate students demands of an end to corporal punishment, end to Age Limit restrictions and many

- other relevant education demands.
- DET is playing with our people by indefinitely suspending classes in the Eastern Cape schools, and re-open schools in Pretoria.
- the students' struggles have (off late) gained many other enemies who have joined to openly say that SRC demand is a political one and that it can only be allowed Universities or Colleges.

And believing that:

- the crisis in South Africa today is a permanent one, only by the time arises that it explodes just as the case now.
- the so-called preventive Section 28 of the Internal Security Act will /have not solved the problems S.A. has presently, instead people showed quite clearly that they have the ability too.
- the DET "SRC" response hasn't answered all the demands students are having
- these "Community Councillors" are the main force behind the disturbances in Vaal, P.E. and other areas.
- further, the education which is forced to our people has long been proved to be a failure (ever since its inception in 1954), and that it will never take our forefathers's land, South Africa, to anywhere.

And therefore resolve that:

1. Det must meet all education demands of the students
2. All "Town/community Councillors" must resign immediately and unconditionally because they are responsible for the killing of students in Vaal and other areas
3. All detained students be released immediately and unconditionally and their charges withdrawn
4. Students and parents decide when examinations (final) can be written because it is not them but Det which closed their schools
5. Those students be allowed back into schools without the harassment as a result of "age limit law"
6. No student be harassed or intimidated by the police or school authority because he was spotted as part of the student struggle
7. No declaration must be signed by both parents and students on the return of students to school
8. All the people of our land must rally behind the move by AZASO and COSAS in campaign for an Education Charter, which will be a yard stick around the struggles in education. We further believe that the envisaged character of the Education Charter will be of a democratic nature as an alternative to the present racist and degrading education.

APPENDIX

LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WITH WHOM CRIC WORKS

TRADE UNIONS

GAWU (General and Allied workers union)
SAAWU (South African Allied Workers Union)
CUSA (Consultative Unions of South Africa)
FOSATU (Federation of South African Trade Unions)
MACWUSA (Motor and Components Workers Union of South Africa)
MGWUSA (Municipal and General Workers Union of South Africa)
SAMWU (South African Mine Workers union)

GENERAL

UDF (united Democratic Front - National)
UDF (Transvaal and Border)
RMC (Release Mandela Committee)
JODAC (Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee)

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Attredgeville and Saulsville residents association (Pretoria)

SOWETO civic association
Hhudi civic association
Vaal civic association,
Tsekana civic association
Katlhông civic association

NORTHERN CAPE

NORTHERN TRANSVAAL

YOUTH GROUPS

SOYCO (Soweto youth congress)
Ayco (Alexandra Youth Congress)
Mayo (Mamelodi Youth Organisation)
Sayo (Saulsville youth Organisation)
Thabong Youth Congress (Bloemfontein)
East London youth organisation
Kuruman Youth Congress
Hhudi Youth Unity
Soshanguve youth organisation (Pretoria)
Mayco (Mankweng Youth Congress)
Moya (Tembisa - East Rand)

S T A T E M E N T

In supporting the democratic demands of the students, the following unions and federation:

POSATU
CUSA
SAAWU
CCAWUSA
UMMAWOSA
GAWU
MCWUSA
SASDA
NUPAWO

agreed :

To support the call for a regional stay-at-home on 5th and 6th November and demand

1. Army and police to be withdrawn from the townships
2. Rent increases to be stopped
3. All Community Councillors to resign
4. Release of all detainees and political prisoners
We record that our fellow unionists Jerry Kau (NNAWU) Zanemvula Mapela (PWAU) Zolani Nduna (CWIU) Khetsi Lehoko (UMAWOSA) Duma Nkosi (CCAWUSA)
5. Reinstatement of all dismissed workers including Simba Quix workers
6. Bus fare increases to be halted
7. Withdrawal of unfair GST and taxation.

We recommend that our members stay indoors, that shops close that health workers be allowed to provide medical services. We call on all political and civic organisations to support the students' call.

31 October 1984

6th Floor
Kholso House
42 De Villiers
JOHANNESBURG
2000

The honourable Secretary/Chairman

The Transvaal Stay-way Committee formed by the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) together with all Youth Organisations, Civil Ass. Workers Organisations and Political Organisations, in the Transvaal, call on you and all your affiliates to recognise the plea for a Regional Stay-way scheduled for the 5th and 6th November 1984.

The following organisations are represented in the committee:-

1. The Congress of South African Students. (Cosas)
2. The Release Mandela Committee (RMC)
3. The Vaal Civic Association
4. Fedsaw - Federation of South African Women
5. Soweto Youth Congress (Soyco)
6. Mamelodi Youth Organisation (Mayo)
7. Saulsville Youth Organisation (SAYO)
8. Alexandra Youth Congress - (AYCO)
9. Vaal Youth Congress (Vayco)
10. Azanian Student Organisation
11. National Union of South African Student
12. Federation of South African Trade Unions. (Fosatu)
13. South African Allied Workers Union (Saawu)
14. General and Allied Workers Union (Gawu)
15. Municipal & General Union Workers of S.A. (MGWUSA)
16. South African Scooter Drivers Union (Sasdu)
17. South African Railway & Harbour Workers Union (SARHWU)
18. MOYA Youth Congress.
19. Mankweng Youth Congress
20. Seshego Youth Congress
21. East Rand Peoples Organisation (ERAPO)
22. Wattville Youth League
23. And all other Church Organisations in the Transvaal.

We therefore extend our invitation to ^{you} Association, not only to respond positively ~~but~~ be physically with the involved organisations.

Your support and positive response will be highly appreciated.

Yours in the Struggle

Oapa Monareng - (Secretary Far Northern T.V.L)
Thami Mali - Convenor
Themba Montlantane (Organiser, West Rand, Pretoria)
Moses Mayekisa - Organiser - East Rand & Vaal.

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