

# From South Africa, an Urgent Appeal for Support and Solidarity

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## DEMOCRATIC LEFT FRONT (DLF)

### Urgent Appeal for Support and Solidarity

**Comrades, its once again the time to dig deep. Things are beginning to change.** The ANC's hegemony is eroding. Corruption, cronyism, the Marikana massacre and an upturn in working class struggle is rapidly changing the situation. We are entering a new period where great opportunities exist for the recomposition of the labour movement, for uniting workplace and community struggles and to create a dynamic towards the formation of a genuine left alternative to the ANC with strong roots in the working class.

The crisis in COSATU and the decision by NUMSA, COSATU's biggest affiliate, to initiate the building of a mass united front and a movement for socialism is a massive game-changer.

To realise the opportunities of the new political situation there is much to be done:

Firstly, we need to mobilise massive solidarity with the 80 000 striking platinum mineworkers. The strike is at a critical point. Workers have been on strike for three months. The biggest platinum conglomerates, the Chamber of Mines, the state are united in their determination to crush the revolutionary demand of a living wage of R12 500. A victory for the mineworkers has huge possibilities for transforming the position of workers in all sectors of the economy.

We have to unite the different community struggles for decent services. In every corner of the country communities are rising up against the dehumanising conditions in our townships, informal settlements and villages. In the last year more than 1000 protests have taken place. Isolated and fragmented they have so far failed to reverse privatisation and the commodification of basic services. Growing possibilities exist to unite these struggles in a national movement for decent services.

We need to forge alliances between workplace and community struggles. The initiation by NUMSA of a united front can help to unite workplace and community struggles. Already on the 26<sup>th</sup> February and the 19<sup>th</sup>, March the DLF successfully mobilised its affiliates and other community formations to stand in solidarity with NUMSA and other unions that are fighting the neoliberal youth wage subsidy and incentive scheme. It was when workers, youth and township communities came together in united mass action that the Apartheid system was shaken and brought to its knees.

To deepen all this work we need your support and solidarity. All this work takes lots of commitment and lots of resources. This is why the DLF has decided to launch a campaign to raise R100 000.

We are appealing to you to support the Democratic Left Front to mobilise concrete solidarity with the striking workers. In the next weeks we need to send comrades to the open pit mine in Limpopo where production is still taking place. The workers there are unorganised. We think we can link them to the striking mineworkers. We are producing an issue of the Mineworker, a multilingual newspapers setting out ideas for how to win the strike and we will be co-ordinating public meetings

hosting striking mineworkers in our communities to build direct worker-to-worker solidarity. Over and above this we will be collecting food and money for the mineworkers and mobilising solidarity actions with the wives and other family members of the strikers.

We need money for posters, T shirts, leaflets, for holding public meetings. During the election campaign we will be able to advance the cause of the left, of the NUMSA initiated united front, the movement for socialism.

An eco-socialist SA free of corruption, crony capitalism and inequality is possible and absolutely necessary.

*Democratic Left Front*

***You can make a donation to***

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