

defend its unity and integrity as committed disciples of change; pursue its popular objectives like true revolutionaries who seek only to serve the nation.'

Our chief challenge now is to match the political transformation which Comrade Madiba led in the area of democracy and human rights with an equally militant revolutionary struggle to solve the problems which we still face, particularly economic apartheid, exposed by our outrageous levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

We need dedicated disciples of Comrade Madiba in the ANC and the Alliance to emulate his role, in our struggle to implement the 2012 Mangaung Conference resolution for the 2nd Phase of the Transition, for the full and speedy implementation of government's existing policies to transform our economy, to create jobs and redistribute the country's wealth and for a radical programme for economic reconstruction, in line with the Freedom Charter.

We need to recommit ourselves to the battle to defend workers' rights, to end the super-exploitation of vulnerable workers and the modern-day slavery by labour brokers, to get rid of the scourge of corruption, and to have a national minimum wage and basic income grant.

The world is poorer today after the departure of this moral and political giant. Tata Madiba will remain a global icon and a symbol of hope for the oppressed. We must rededicate ourselves to defending the oppressed and in building a truly united, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and prosperous South Africa that will never betray his principles. ■

# Fedusa mourns Madiba

In a statement released after the death of Nelson Mandela the Federation of Unions of South Africa (Fedusa) said it was saddened by his passing on, and celebrated the contributions he made to peace and reconciliation.



*Dennis George, Fedusa general secretary.*

Fedusa is mourning the death of former President Nelson Mandela. While saddened by his passing, the federation also celebrates the enormous contribution Madiba made to peace and reconciliation.

'Tata Madiba is undoubtedly the biggest icon ever to emerge from South Africa, and his contribution to South African history can never be sufficiently emphasised. I can still recall when, after elected as president, he wanted to meet with Fedusa. When his office phoned we indicated that we were more than prepared to see him at the Union Buildings, but we were told

that he insisted to meet us at our offices. It was a wonderful experience for our leadership at that time to shake hands with such a great man,' Dennis George remembered.

'Although we are mourning the passing of Madiba, it would be wrong not to celebrate the life that he lived. Nelson Mandela was the pivotal point of the successful and peaceful transition from the apartheid state to a democratic country. We must laud him for not harbouring hate or feelings of retribution, but rather becoming a servant of all South Africans and fostering reconciliation between all the racial groups in our beautiful country. It is only on this foundation of peace that we could start building our country to what it is now, and what it will become,' added George. ■