

Are the elections about 'liberating' KwaZulu-Natal?

*Tensions in KwaZulu-Natal appear to be mounting as the elections draw closer. Over the past 12 years an estimated 20 000 people have died as a result of political violence. The **Labour Bulletin** interviewed Cosatu's regional secretary **Zet Luzipo** to find out what is currently happening in the province.*



For Luzipo the upcoming elections in KwaZulu-Natal are about 'freeing the province' from the remaining shackles of apartheid. He says the province has not tasted democracy in the same way that other provinces have. The situation differs slightly in the Western Cape which has tasted a bit of democracy but as yet not been liberated. 'We have to acknowledge

that KwaZulu-Natal is still under the leadership of the apartheid machinery as the IFP is the product of the old apartheid regime and the systems it put in place.'

Luzipo explains how the institutions set up by apartheid remain in place and are operating in the same way as they did before. He makes specific reference to the fact that in the so-called black areas, residents are under the authority of traditional leadership while this is not the case in other areas. He argues that by its nature traditional leadership cannot be democratic because it is about compliance. 'Why is there no demand for Durban to be placed under traditional leadership but a town a short distance away can be?' There has been no extension of democracy to rural areas while there has been no attempt to extend traditional leadership to urban towns.

Cosatu, he says, has a direct interest in the elections not only because of the historical alliance with the ANC but because of the treatment the federation has received by the ruling party in the province. The ruling

IFP has forced Cosatu to work tirelessly for the ANC to win the province. 'We should not hide the fact the many of our comrades in the leadership of Cosatu died at the hands of the province leadership,' he adds. He says Cosatu affiliates have in recent times found it difficult to recruit in traditional IFP strongholds. This was the case, he says, in the provinces education department. Teachers joining the SA Democratic Teachers Union are often not given strategic positions in the province as they are perceived to be joining the ANC. In one incident a Sadtu principle was chased away from a school as he was seen bringing the ANC into the school. A similar practice appears to be occurring throughout the public service in the province, he says. 'There is a concerted strategy to ensure Cosatu affiliated unions are not penetrating the service'. This, however, has surprisingly not led to a decline in membership. The unions, he says, have used this to their benefit. 'Sometimes harassment works to the benefit of the union,' he explains. It is a reason to fight and has contributed to the growth of membership. ■



Ditsela Programme 2004



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COURSE	DATE	WHERE?
NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME		
Core Skills Using e-mail & Internet	2-6 August 2004	Johannesburg
Core Skills: Powerful & Effective Writing	2-6 August 2004	Johannesburg
Core Skills: Introduction to Research for Trade Unions	2-6 August 2004	Johannesburg
Educator Development: National School for Educators	22-27 February 2004 21-27 June 2004	Johannesburg
Organisational Change & Renewal in Trade Unions	22-27 June 2004 12-17 September 2004	Johannesburg
Organisational Development: Advanced Courses	12-19 March 2004 24-29 May 2004 10-20 August 2004 31 Oct-November 2004 21-25 February 2005	Johannesburg
Labour Law: Advanced Courses	15-19 March 2004 24-28 May 2004 18-22 August 2004 31 Oct-November 2004 21-25 February 2005	Johannesburg
Training & Education (Qualif)	18-19 March 2004 24-28 May 2004 18-22 August 2004 31 Oct-November 2004 21-25 February 2005	Johannesburg
Process Leadership: Mutual Learning	15-18 March 2004 21-24 May 2004 16-20 August 2004 31 Oct-November 2004 21-25 February 2005	Johannesburg
HR/HRM: Training of Trainers for HR/HRM Workshop	20-23 July 2004	Johannesburg
HR/HRM: Developing a Worker Union with HR	20-23 July 2004	Johannesburg
HR/HRM: Negotiating in Western Context	20-23 July 2004	Johannesburg
PROVINCIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME		
Introduction to the Political Process	10-16 July 2004 30-31 June 2004 16-18 July 2004	Midwest North West Western Cape
HR/HRM: Developing a Worker Union with HR	31-30 September 2004	Western Cape
Labour Law in a Developing Context	10-16 July 2004 30-31 June 2004 16-18 July 2004	Midwest North West Western Cape
HR/HRM: Developing a Worker Union with HR	31-30 September 2004	Northern Cape
HR/HRM: Developing a Worker Union with HR	20-23 July 2004 30-31 June 2004 16-18 July 2004	Midwest North West Western Cape
HR/HRM: Developing a Worker Union with HR	21-20 September 2004	Northern Cape
WESTERN CAPE EDUCATION PROGRAMME		
HR/HRM: Developing a Worker Union with HR	30-31 June 2004	Cape Town
2002-2004 Pigeon Module 7: Using the e-mail & Internet	11-14 May 2004	Cape Town
2004-2005 Pigeon Module 1: Writing Skills		
2004-2005 Pigeon Module 2: Writing Skills	22-26 August 2004	Cape Town
2004-2005 Pigeon Module 3: Writing Skills		
2004-2005 Pigeon Module 4: Writing Skills	27-30 September 2004	Cape Town
2002-2004 Pigeon Module 12: Educator Skills	22-26 September 2004	Cape Town
2004-2005 Pigeon Module 5: Workplace Reorganisation		
Health & Safety (General) - HR/HRM	26-29 July 2004 26-29 July 2004	South Coast Durbanville

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