

*draft***SACCOLA/COSATU***charter*


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In the weeks preceding the August general strike SACCOLA and COSATU attempted to develop a joint approach to the problems facing the country. The draft charter, reprinted here, was historic. It committed business, for the first time, to a one-day shutdown and COSATU to moderating its mass action programme. The draft agreement eventually floundered when SACCOLA was unable to win support for it from its constituent business organisations.

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## **Draft Charter and programme for peace, democracy and economic reconstruction**

**A**ll South Africans are deeply concerned at the breakdown of negotiations, at rising violence, the sharply deteriorating economy, increasing unemployment, spiralling food prices and the other serious socio-economic problems which increase prospects of confrontation and conflict. In an attempt to break this cycle of conflict the undersigned organisations commit themselves to the actions set out below. We actively seek the support of all South Africans of goodwill to support these actions.

### **1 Curbing violence**

We commit the resources at our disposal to ensure that:

- 1.1 effective peace committees are established in all communities where our members are present throughout the country;
- 1.2 effective mechanisms exist on the ground to monitor the behaviour of both the security agencies and political organisations, and in particular the investigation and prosecutions of crimes of violence;
- 1.3 recommendations of the Goldstone

Commission including those relating to hostels, security forces, dangerous weapons and mass demonstrations as well as the actions of political organisations are implemented without delay;

**1.4** the provisions of the Peace Accord relating to the government's establishment of special criminal courts, police reporting officers, effective adherence by all signatories and the adequate provision of infrastructure and resources are implemented.

## **2 Combatting poverty**

Through representative institutions such as the economic and housing forums, we will seek urgently to establish or expand:

- 2.1** job creation programmes that offer employment and marketable skills to retrenched and the unemployed;
- 2.2** programmes that deliver food and other drought relief to the communities who need it;
- 2.3** housing and hostel upgrading programmes that offer secure shelter together with related services;
- 2.4** a programme for the provision of electricity for all;
- 2.5** a national forum to address unacceptably high food inflation;
- 2.6** programmes to create a viable system of education and training for all;
- 2.7** an open and inclusive approach at both national and industry level, to economic restructuring and to agreeing to an economic strategy which will deliver high and sustainable levels of growth and development. To this end, to seek to avoid unilateral economic restructuring and to seek consensus between government, labour and business in this regard.

## **3 NMC and labour rights**

We commit ourselves urgently to finalise the NMC restructuring and therein to resolve the extension of trade union rights to farm, domestic and public sector workers.

## **4 Political transition**

None of the above can succeed unless progress is also made in the transition to democracy. Whilst it is the role of the political

organisations to craft new political dispensations, four pre-requisites for progress seem clear to us:

- 4.1** the need to move as speedily as possible to political settlement based on elections on a one person one vote of equal value for a united South Africa;
- 4.2** both the period of transition, and a new dispensation, must be governed by and conform to principles of democracy; (Such a set of principles has already been agreed by the political organisations, and are set out in an annexure to this document.)
- 4.3** an elected constitution making body unfettered in its capacity to agree and adopt a constitution for South Africa except by the principles annexed hereto, needs to be established, and which shall also perform the dual function of a transitional parliament; in its decision-making this body must be governed by and conform to universal norms of democracy;
- 4.4** effective transitional arrangements, and in particular an independent electoral commission to ensure that elections held during the transition are indeed free and fair.

We can see no reason why the four elements above should be the cause of dispute. Equally we can see no reason why all four should not be given legislative effect and be in place in a specified, short term, time-frame of six to nine months.

We commit ourselves to:

- use all peaceful means at our disposal to resolving the national impasse;
- support the right of freedom of association and expression of all groups/people in pursuing peaceful means to resolve this dispute. This includes refraining from victimisation or intimidation.

We intend to seek the support of all our members – and of the broader public – for the above goals:

- by seeking their support for this document;
- by convening a broadly representative meeting or convention to be held before the end of July to give effect to this

document;

- by organising and calling on all South Africans to observe 3 August 1992 as a day of peace, democracy and economic reconstruction.

To ensure that the provision of this document is given effect, we commit ourselves to calling a broadly representative meeting by the end of September to review the actions of the parties, in giving effect to the above results achieved and to decide on such further steps as may be appropriate.

**Programme of Action: A day for peace, economic reconstruction and democracy**  
SACCOLA and COSATU together with the churches and other religious organisations call upon all the people in South Africa including those living and working in the TBVC states to observe Monday 3 August as a day of peace, democracy and economic reconstruction. SACCOLA and COSATU intend to organise assemblies in all the major centres of South Africa together with the churches. In addition the churches have also agreed to convene activities in all local churches throughout the country.

It is the intention that these assemblies and local church activities will provide an opportunity for millions of South Africans to reflect on the problems of violence, poverty and the current political deadlock; to commit themselves and their communities to the goals of peace, economic reconstruction and democracy and to discuss practical measures to promote these three goals. During these activities South Africans will be invited to sign peace, economic reconstruction and democracy pledges. SACCOLA and COSATU have agreed to suspend normal economic activities for this day to express support for these activities. SACCOLA and COSATU call upon employers and trade unions, in both the private and public sectors, and all other South Africans to do likewise.

SACCOLA and COSATU will use their resources to ensure that the actions of the day are conducted peacefully, and without disciplinary action. To ensure success, the parties will establish a steering committee to address the issues of adequate resources, planning, logistics and communication, including at the workplace. ☆

### Annexure

- 1 South Africa will be a united sovereign state in which all will enjoy a common South African citizenship.
- 2 South Africa will be democratic, non-racial and non-sexist.
- 3 The constitution shall be the supreme law.
- 4 There will be a separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary with appropriate checks and balances.
- 5 The judiciary will be independent, non racial and impartial.
- 6 There will be a legal system that guarantees the equality of all before the law.
- 7 There will be representative and accountable government embracing multi-party democracy, regular elections, universal adult suffrage, a common voters roll and, in general, proportional representation.
- 8 The diversity of languages, cultures and religions will be acknowledged.
- 9 All will enjoy universal accepted human rights, freedoms and civil liberties including freedom of religion, speech and assembly which will be guaranteed by an entrenched and justiciable bill/charter of fundamental rights.
- 10 Government shall be structured at national, regional and local levels.
  - At each level there shall be democratic representation.
  - Each level of government shall have appropriate and adequate legislative and executive powers, duties and functions that will enable each level to function effectively; such powers, duties and functions to be entrenched in the constitution. ❖