

Province	Rally	Venue	Contact	Deployee / Designation
Eastern Cape	East London (National Rally)	Sisa Dukashe Stadium, Mdantsane	Xola Phakathi 082 752 6504	SidumoDlamini (President)
Gauteng	West Rand	Mohlareng Stadium	Siphiwe Mgcina 082 465 8336	Cedric Gina (NUMSA President)
	Tshwane	Temba Stadium (Hammanskraal)		Bheki Ntshalintshali (Deputy General Secretary)
Mpumalanga	KwaMhlanga	KwaMhlanga Stadium	Norman Mokoena 082 803 6712	Fikile Majola (NEHAWU General Secretary)
	Bushbuckridge	Mapulaneng College Auditorium	Fidel Mlombo 079 495 6524	Thobile Ntola (SADTU President)
North West	Moses Kotana (Mogwasi)	Phela Stadium	Solly Phetoe 082 304 4055	Tshidi Dipholo (SADTU Vice President)
	Schweizer-Reneke	Schweizer-Reneke Rugby Stadium		Katishi Masemola (FAWU General Secretary)
	Potchefstroom	Reagile Stadium		Simon Mofokeng (CEPPWAWU General)
	Mafikeng	Montshioa Stadium		Mashiya Mthimkhulu (SASAWU General Secretary)
Limpopo	Thabazimbi	Rekgorogile Community Hall	Jan Tsiane 082 448 5099	Violet Seboni (2 Deputy President)
	Thohoyandou	Indoor Sports Center		Ezrom Mabyane (SATAWU President)
	Phalaborwa	Pala Mine Club		Ephraim Mafalo (DENOSA President)
	Burgersfort (Tubatsie)	CN Phatudi College of Education		Petrus Mashishi (SAMWU President)
Free State	Ficksburg	Phiritona Sports Ground	Sam Mashinini 082 563 6954	Robert Mashego (SATAWU Deputy President)
	Brandfort	Page Park Stadium		Angie Phetle (SACCAWU 2 Deputy President)
	Heilbron	Sandersville Stadium		Mthandeki Nhlapo (SAMWU General Secretary)
	Koffie Fontein	Ditlhake Sports Ground		Joe Kokela (SASBO President)
Western Cape	Cape Town	Good Hope Center	Tony Ehrenreich 082 773 3194	Ebrahim Patel (SACTWU General Secretary)
	Oudtshoorn	Bridgeton Sports Ground		Bheki Mvovo (SASFU President)
	Saldanha Bay	Skilpad Saal Sports Terrein		Andre Kriel (SACTWU DGS)
	Citrusdaal	Oranjeville Sports Field		Randall Howard (SATAWU General Secretary)
	Worcester	Die Plein Hoofweg		Christine Olivier (NUMSA Deputy President)
Northern Cape	Kimberley	Open Arena	William Sikali 076 814 1616	Xolani Boss Nxu (SAMWU Deputy President)
	Colesburg	Kuyasa Community Hall		Lulamile Sotaka (NEHAWU Deputy General Secretary)
	Springbok	Kareeberg		Zandile Makwayiba (NEHAWU 2 Deputy President)
KwaZulu Natal	Durban	Curries Fountain	Zet Luzipo 072 884 3456	Zwelinzima Vavi (General Secretary)
	Pietermaritzburg	City Hall		Irvin Jim (NUMSA General Secretary)
	Portshepstone	Civic Centre		Themba Khumalo (SACTWU President)
	Newcastle	Madadeni FET College		June Dube (SATAWU Deputy President)
	Dundee	Moth Hall		Senzeni Zokwana (NUM President)
	Vryheid	Bhekuzulu Hall		Nonhle Mkhulisi (SADTU Vice President Gender)
	uMzimkhulu	uMzimkhulu College of Education		Thembeke Gwagwa (DENOSA GS)
	Ladysmith	Windsor High School Hall		Bones Sikhulu (SACCAWU General Secretary)
	uMhlatuze	Bhekuzulu Hall, University of Zululand		Mduduzi Mbongwe (SACCAWU Deputy GS)
	Mandeni	Sundumbili Sports Ground		Beauty Zibula (SACTWU Deputy President)
	Manguzi	Tembe Tribal Authority Hall		Salome Sithole (SADTU Vice President SACOM)



May Day Rallies 2009

Every year on the first of May, since 1889, workers around the world gather to:

- Celebrate our victories,
- Remember those who sacrificed their lives in the struggle,
- Rededicate ourselves to the struggle for freedom and socialism,
- Demonstrate our international solidarity as workers, and
- Unite against our oppressors and exploiters.

May Day in South Africa has rightly been made a public holiday in honour of the historic part played by workers in the war against apartheid. But that struggle did not end with the destruction of apartheid in 1994. There are still huge problems facing working people and the poor and COSATU will be addressing these at mass rallies on 1 May 2009, under the theme of: **Consolidating working class power in defence of our revolutionary movement for decent work!**

This year we shall also be celebrating the fourth successive election victory of the African National Congress and the election of a new ANC government led by Comrade Jacob Zuma, a triumph in which COSATU is playing a pivotal role.

The ANC is the only party today that speaks for the workers and the poor majority of South Africans. The 2007 Polokwane ANC Conference, and the Alliance Summits that followed it May and October 2008, have brought about a decisive move towards pro-poor and pro-worker policies, which were incorporated into its excellent manifesto, which sends a message of hope for the poor, the workers and the majority of our population.

That is why COSATU once again appeals to its members and all the people of South Africa to give the ANC another five-year mandate on 22 April, so our new government can start bringing down the levels of unemployment and poverty, speed up service delivery and move closer to our shared vision of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous nation. We are mobilising our forces - in the workplaces and the communities to make sure that our ANC allies win another record majority in Parliament and in every province.

Though COSATU has sometimes been very critical of past government economic policies, we have always given the ANC credit for all the positive advances we have made since 1994. While fully sympathising with the plight of many of the poorest communities over continuing poverty and lack of service delivery, we reject the false arguments that "nothing has changed in 15 years" and are proud to list the many achievements since 1994 under ANC governments.

But while we celebrate victory on May Day, we shall not be complacent. The struggle will continue. We shall be monitoring the new government to make sure that all its manifesto promises are urgently and fully implemented. COSATU will never stop representing the workers and campaigning for policies to address all the problems they

Consolidating working class power in defence of our revolutionary movement for decent work!

still face, particularly the massive levels of unemployment, the casualisation of labour and the declining quality of jobs.

We have warmly welcomed the ANC manifesto's declaration that "decent work is the foundation of the fight against poverty and inequality and its promotion should be the cornerstone of all our efforts. Decent work embraces both the need for more jobs and for better quality jobs". But we know that we will not win the fight for decent work without sustained pressure from the trade union movement, to back up the measures the new government has pledged to introduce

COSATU will not relax until we have put an end to poverty and the wide inequalities that dis-figure our society. We shall continue to campaign for the expansion and improvement of public services for the poor, and strongly oppose privatisation and commodification. We shall keep battling for honest, accountable government, and the stamping out of corruption and the use of state institutions for self enrichment.

We will not however change anything unless we unite our movement and build strong structures from trade union, ANC and SACP branches up to the provincial and national committees so we can mobilise our forces on the scale necessary to ensure we carry forward the great work done in the election into the next five to ten years.

The elections take place against the backdrop of a global economic crisis. As the ANC manifesto says: "The recent turmoil in world markets, and before that, sharp rises in the cost of fuel and food, has impacted on the SA economy and the lives of our people. The cost of living has increased painfully and we can expect economic growth to slow resulting in job losses."

Thousands of retrenchments have already been announced and there could be many more employers shedding jobs or shelving plans to create new jobs. That is why we cannot believe the latest employment statistics from Stats SA, showing a drop in unemployment in the last quarter of 2008, a quarter in which GDP fell by 1.8%. We have always argued that this 'official' level of unemployment - excluding those deemed to have given up looking for work - seriously underestimates the real levels of joblessness and poverty. That view is strengthened by these latest incredible figures. All the evidence from our affiliates points in the opposite direction to rising unemployment, from a level which was already far too high before the latest crisis. And thousands more jobs are disappearing without trace, as a result of the growing number of permanent jobs being casualised or outsourced to labour brokers, where it is virtually impossible to track the number of jobs being lost.

COSATU therefore welcomes the ANC's pledge to "intervene to ensure that Government, together with labour, business and other sectors work together to develop practical solutions that will ensure that in the short, medium and long term South Africa's economic prospects continue to improve and that jobs losses are avoided or minimised."

We are even more pleased that even before the election we began to implement this manifesto pledge, through the Framework Plan, agreed by government, business, labour and community organisations at the Joint Presidential Working Group, as South Africa's response to the international economic crisis.

This is a most significant example of social partners coming together to produce a strategy to counter the impact of the economic crisis and to protect jobs and livelihoods. We fully support the agreement by all parties "to increase the level of employment as well as improve the quality of jobs".

But however good an agreement is on paper, it still has to be implemented in practice. Business leaders who signed the agreement must now convince all their CEOs to abide by the letter and spirit of this plan. We urge our affiliates to monitor the undertaking from organised business "to urge and encourage CEOs of companies to do everything in their power to avoid retrenchments as a result of the global economic crisis" and to make sure they are abiding by it.

COSATU is now working in the five task teams which are meeting to ensure that the Framework Plan is fully implemented. In these task teams the unions are represented at the level of union general secretaries and we appeal to government to reciprocate this level of seniority, so we can deal with people who have political authority to take decisions on the spot.

Faced with a crisis that is threatening all the gains registered in the past 15 years, we need the direct involvement of the President and his Ministers to drive this process forward, so we can minimise the impact of the crisis and emerge from it with a stronger economy, more quality jobs and significant reductions in poverty and inequality.

It has never been more vital to unite as a nation to protect and create employment in our manufacturing industry by buying local and breaking the traditional cycle of exporting raw materials, allowing them to be converted into manufactured goods overseas and then imported back at a huge profit to foreign companies. We must seize the chance to build and strengthen our manufacturing sector.

During the election campaign we must never take the ANC's electoral support for granted, but vigorously defend it from the ragbag of anti-ANC forces, in which the usual collection of pro-business parties are joined by the grossly mis-named 'Congress of the People', led by the losers of Polokwane.

They were all firm supporters of GEAR and privatisation, which helped their big business friends, and many of them personally, to get wealthy from looting the publicly owned sectors of our economy. They were outraged by the ANC delegates' rejection of their pro-business and pro-rich policies, the very policies that led to escalating unemployment and growing inequalities, and a decline in the quality of many public services.

The COPE leaders will not of course admit to supporting policies that only benefit big business. Their election manifesto has been described as a "cut-and-paste" from the ANC's, which is a tacit admission that ANC policies are the most popular.

But we are not deceived. COPE's goal is to split and emasculate our movement. They accuse COSATU of being too involved in politics and are irresponsibly trying to stoke divisions and undermine union structures. They would love to break the historic alliance between COSATU, the SACP and the ANC.

Willie Madisha is even talking of setting up a federation to oppose COSATU. He is doomed to fail; as we say in our booklet 'Defend our Movement: Defeat the Black DA': "This splinter grouping will never destroy the revolutionary determination of the South African people to complete the NDR. It will never break the will of the South African workers to transform the lives of their families and communities".

The struggle against 'COPE' is the struggle for revolutionary transformation against neo-liberalism, for a mass participatory democracy against an elite 'democracy' for the few, for people to have real control over their economic and social destiny.

The elections take place in the 'Heroes' Month' of April, when we honour the memory of some of our greatest heroes and heroines who died in that month, in particular OR Tambo, Chris Hani and Solomon Mahlangu. May Day too is a time to remember the debt we owe to all those who dedicated, and even sacrificed, their lives, so that we could live in peace and democracy.

The best possible way to honour their memory will be to keep fighting for the kind of South Africa that they fought for; a country where no-one has to live in poverty, where there are jobs for all, and where all South Africans have equal access to health care, education, communication and all other essential services.

Among those challenges is to protect the day itself. Employers are eroding the significance of all our historic holidays - May Day, Freedom Day, Women's Day, Human Rights Day and even Election Day - by forcing more and more of us to work. Some bosses do not even pay workers double time for working on a public day or give them a day off in lieu. COSATU demands that these days be declared non-tradable public holidays, on which no employers, apart from those providing emergency services, can open their workplaces.

On this international workers' day, COSATU also rededicates itself to solidarity with our fellow workers under attack - in Palestine, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Western Sahara, Colombia, Burma and other parts of the world!

May Day Rallies
2009

**Workers of the world unite!
The people united shall never be defeated!**