



## **NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS UNION (NPSWU)**

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### **PRESIDENT MAY DAY SPEECH**

01 MAY 2020

Amadla! !!!!Viva Nactu Viva!!!!Long live the undying, relentless and uncompromising spirit of the workers long live!!!!igama lamakhosikazi malibongwe!!Phansi nge Gender Based Violence Phansi!!!!

Revolutionary greetings to you all and observing all protocol. Let us observe a minute silence in respect of all our fallen Comrades and particularly our Lilly Mine Workers who are still languishing underground and declare that no Workers' day will be complete until their bodies are retrieved and laid to their respectful resting place and their families find closure. We will do everything in our power to ensure that they are ultimately retrieved.

It is with great humility and respect that I address you on this important Workers Day in the midst of a cruel & deadliest anti-social pandemic of our time. The state of disaster has been declared and we are under Lockdown and even with the best technology the world has already clogged over 3million infections and over 227 000 deaths and here in SA we have already clogged over 5000 infections & over 100 deaths but what is giving us hope is that we have 2,073 recoveries. The language is lockdown, quarantine and isolation. • Anti-Social cos we can't assemble, meet, chant, dance and engage as we share our workplace challenges & struggles amongst ourselves in commemorating May Day. • Anti-social that we have to apply restrictive measures like social distancing, wearing of masks, no hugging, no kissing and more restrictive protective measures, already some of our comrades are infected, quarantined, isolated, admitted and some have even lost their lives and we are affected as a result. • Anti-social in that some workers have lost their jobs or about to lose their jobs as company after company declares insolvency or distress. • Anti-social in that for the first time in our lives we have been exposed in that our workplace Occupational Health & Safety Structures are fractured and dysfunctional, and workers are exposed to danger and occupational hazards and as thus the issue of PPEs and Sanitisers has been and still is a serious challenge as we speak and we have sent our soldiers to war vulnerable and exposed

**GO BACK TO WORK & RISK INFECTION/DEATH OR STAY AT HOME AND LOSE EMPLOYMENT, SAVE THE ECONOMY OR SAVE THE PEOPLE'S LIVES?** Those are questions workers are faced with more challenges on all fronts e.g. dismissals, retrenchments, forced leave, NO WORK NO PAY, layoffs, half pay, and lack of access to UIF benefits due to some employers not having paid their contributions, etc. Trade Unions have not been SPARED cos they were not declared as essential by the Government, and you, our members are exposed and vulnerable as you cannot be fully represented and assisted in the midst of workplace challenges but we would like to ensure you that we are doing our best to address all your concerns.

It is you the workers who are at the forefront, fighting this invisible, yet invincible and anti-social pandemic. We must be relentless in our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.



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We demand that in the midst of this pandemic we must identify opportunities for job creation and job retention to reboot the economy and NACTU demands localisation of manufacturing & production in the form of legislation and gazette and not lip service, land restitutions must be expedited including our oceans and that includes the renaming of our Oceans to East African/Azania ocean and West African/Azania ocean cos I don't understand what India has to with our ocean so many nautical miles away from Africa and we have to conscientize our youth that these oceans belong to us so we must harvest them. Same goes for the Atlantic, we cannot allow ourselves to be brainwashed

In closing I would like to say that we will always be indebted to our frontline workers and we pay tribute and respect but also commend you for your undying, uncompromising and relentless spirit in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that there is no struggle without casualties but we will conquer regardless of the consequences.

Let's mobilise, organise and unite in the struggle for workers emancipation and, at all material times, defend the revolutionary spirit of the workers for the benefit of the workers  
NACTU CARES, BE SAFE, WEAR A MASK, SANITIZE, WASH YOUR HANDS, KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE, RESTRICT YOUR MOVEMENT & STAY AT HOME IF YOU NOT WORKING

**AMANDLA!!!!!!!!FORWARD ALWAYS-BACKWARD NEVER!!!!!!!!ALUTA  
CONTINUA!!!!!!!!LA REVOLUCION UNON!!!!**