

Dear Sir,

Counter accusations have taken place between the leaders of Cosatu, the ANC and some ministers in recent months over the concepts of privatisation and restructuring. I must hastily say that restructuring that causes mass job losses and selling out of vital important public assets is in essence privatisation.

We have seen our leaders of the ANC and Cosatu diagnosing and prescribing each other's illness in public in such a way that is dangerous and causing confusion among the members of both organisations and our people in general who look up to these organisations as the driving force in this process of National Democratic Revolution (NDR).

Oliver Tambo and Joe Slovo: what would they say to these leaders?

The members of the ANC, SACP and Cosatu are expecting clear direction of strategic forward movement guided by leadership of the congress revolutionary movement. Our leaders must be more vigilant instead of playing games of labelling each other and building paranoid suspicions in the revolutionary forces.

They would add: There is a misinterpretation of loyalty. Loyalty is not mindless obedience. The best leaders, in fact, suspect anyone who uncritically and thoughtlessly obeys. Loyalty involves choosing issues and sides you can support. Members who unquestioningly do anything their leaders ask of them (exhibit blind loyalty, such zealots) have no place in a strong and effective organisation.

Unless a leader takes immediate, decisive action to curtail disunity, it becomes a destructive power and is very difficult to stop. Leaders who insist that subordinates never disagree with them can stagnate organisations and alienate able cadres.

Masses readily follow a leader who improves the quality of their lives. There is no

compelling reason to follow one who does not. Masses will never abandon a cause as long as it enhances their own lives. So the best leaders support causes that improve the lives of the masses.

Society cannot be democratic (in the true sense of the word) if it is ruled by profit and social inequality and if power over the most vital areas of life is outside public control. Leaders who believe that they are above criticism are especially dangerous and they soon lose strategic perspective. The leadership strategies should be realistic, pragmatic and workable.

The leaders who desire to lead are always willing to listen and learn even to learn to be better leaders. If a leader ignores top performers, they lose their winning edge and if they ignore weak performers, they never develop a winning edge.

Lastly, they would say: Whilst you are pointing fingers at each other, poverty is building criminals, the country becomes one of casuals and contract workers and a country of merciless exploiters without distribution of wealth, a country of homeless and landless people.

Plant the seeds of society, where ordinary people are in control of their land, resources, food and their decision making. 'People must Govern' while owning and controlling the government is the key to dismantling bureaucracy and corruption.

I think they would say that!

*Thobile Maso  
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### **Letters**

Letters to the editor can be sent by e-mail to [salb@icon.co.za](mailto:salb@icon.co.za) or by fax to (011) 403-9873