

NEW YORK COMMITTEE FOR AFRICAN LABOR SOLIDARITY

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We are writing to invite you to join us at 8:30 AM on Tuesday November 12 for a labor breakfast with Sam Shilowa, head of the South African labor federation COSATU, and COSATU International Director Bangumzi Sifingo.

The breakfast is being held at the Queens College Worker Education Extension Center in Manhattan, 25 West 43rd St., 19th Floor.

The event is a fundraiser for the New York Committee For African Labor Solidarity (NYCALS) which is carrying on the solidarity work of the Labor Committee Against Apartheid.

Please come prepared to contribute generously to this work. In the months ahead we are planning a major campaign to support the labor movement in Nigeria, where a military dictatorship has arrested labor leaders, seized union bank accounts, removed elected officials from office, and collaborated with U.S. and European corporations to break strikes. Nigerian workers need our solidarity. Lets be sure they get the support they need!

Background

Shilowa and Sifingo are on their way to Washington for the first formal meeting between COSATU and the new AFL-CIO. We have been given the opportunity to host them on very short notice, and we hope you will be able to attend. It will be a rare chance for many of us to re-establish contact with our sisters and brothers in the South African labor movement, get labor's progress report on Mandela's first two years in office and discuss the future of U.S./South African labor solidarity.

Sam Shilowa is a man who rose through the ranks. He was a night watchman when he first joined the labor movement, and in face of bloody repression by the apartheid regime, helped build COSATU into the powerful 1.3 million member federation that it is today. Since workers overturned the ban on Black unions in 1980, COSATU provided the organizational muscle and political leadership that galvanized mass resistance to apartheid and finally brought the racist system down.

Today COSATU remains on the cutting edge of progressive social change in South Africa -- challenging the "free trade," low wage corporate agenda for the free South Africa and pressing the Mandela-led government to move more quickly to redress the economic and political legacy of apartheid.

It is sure to be an exciting program. We will see you there!



Stanley Hill
DC 37 AFSCME



Edgar Romney
UNITE

NEW YORK COMMITTEE FOR AFRICAN LABOR SOLIDARITY

Stanley Hill, Edgar Romney and the
New York Committee for African Labor Solidarity (NYCALS)
are pleased to invite you to a fundraising

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Labor Breakfast

with

Sam Shilowa
Head of the South African Labor Federation COSATU

and

Bangumzi Sifingo
COSATU International Director

Tuesday November 12
8:30 AM to 10 AM
at the Queens College Worker Education
Extension Center in Manhattan
25 W. 43rd St., 19th Floor.

The 1.3 million member Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) played a leading role in the struggle against apartheid, paralyzing the apartheid economy with national strikes and winning higher wages and better working conditions for Black workers. COSATU's support was critical to Nelson Mandela's sweeping election as President of a free South Africa in 1994. In post-apartheid South Africa COSATU has led the fight against the economic and social legacy of apartheid, challenging the Mandela government to move more quickly to provide the jobs, housing, health care and educational opportunities the people so desperately need. They have emerged as one of the most powerful and innovative labor movements in the world.

COSATU General Secretary Shilowa and International Director Sifingo will speak about the current situation in South Africa and about their upcoming meeting with AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

DON'T MISS IT!

Please bring a check to support African labor solidarity work in New York. Make it payable to The Africa Fund.

For information contact NYCALS Co-Coordinator Mike Fleshman at (212) 962-1210

c/o The Africa Fund, 17 John Street, New York NY 10038 (212) 962-1210, FAX: (212) 964-8570