

**FEDUSA**

**CLOSING ADDRESS: POLITICAL SCHOOL**

**07 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**

**LEADERS OF FEDUSA AFFILIATES**

**ESTEEMED DELEGATES**

**FELLOW COMRADES**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

**GOOD EVENING**

**AS WE GATHER HERE TODAY, I AM HUMBLED AND DEEPLY HONOURED TO ADDRESS YOU ON THE CULMINATION OF THIS TRANSFORMATIVE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE. IT HAS BEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY, ONE THAT HAS SEEN US DELVE INTO SOME OF THE MOST CRITICAL ISSUES FACING NOT ONLY OUR AFFILIATES BUT ALSO OUR NATION AND THE GLOBAL LABOR MARKET. THE THEME OF THIS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN AS DIVERSE AS IT HAS BEEN CRITICAL, AND TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO REFLECT ON WHAT WE'VE LEARNED, WHAT QUESTIONS WE SHOULD BE ASKING, AND WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR FEDUSA AND OUR GREAT NATION.**

**THROUGHOUT THIS CONFERENCE, WE HAVE EXAMINED THE INTRICACIES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE IMPERATIVE OF A JUST TRANSITION. WE'VE DELVED INTO THE INTRICATE WEB OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE, DISSECTING FUNDING MECHANISMS, IMPLEMENTATION PLANS, AND OBJECTIONS. WE'VE EXPLORED THE EVER-EVOLVING ROLE OF BUSINESS AND LABOR IN SOUTH AFRICA'S POLITICAL ECONOMY, AND WE'VE HEARD PERSPECTIVES ON THE TWO-POT RETIREMENT FUND SYSTEM, A CRUCIAL ISSUE FOR THE FINANCIAL SECURITY OF OUR MEMBERS.**

**WE'VE ADDRESSED THE IMAGE OF THE PUBLIC SERVANT AND THEIR INTERSECTION WITH SOCIETY, CONTEMPLATING HOW TO SAVE THIS IMAGE IN AN ERA WHERE PUBLIC SERVICE IS UNDER CONSTANT SCRUTINY. WE'VE QUESTIONED THE RELEVANCE OF FEDUSA AFFILIATES IN BOTH THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND GLOBAL LABOUR MARKETS, PONDERING THE WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN REMAIN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATES FOR WORKERS. WE'VE DELVED INTO THE COMPLEXITIES OF SOUTH AFRICAN LABOUR LAW AND HOW IT ALIGNS WITH THE ADVANCING WORLD OF WORK.**

**THE FUTURE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING HAS BEEN A CENTREPIECE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS, AS WE GRAPPLE WITH THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF LABOUR RELATIONS. WE'VE EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY OF REIMAGINING FEDUSA, RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR REFORM AND A RENEWED POSTURE TO BETTER SERVE OUR AFFILIATES.**

**AND FINALLY, WE'VE TAKEN A HARD LOOK AT LABOUR UNREST AND PRODUCTIVITY IN SOUTH AFRICA, SEEKING SOLUTIONS THAT CAN LEAD US TOWARDS A MORE HARMONIOUS AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE.**

**BUT WHAT DO THESE THEMES TRULY REPRESENT? THEY ARE NOT MERE TALKING POINTS; THEY ARE THE HEARTBEATS OF OUR AFFILIATES, THE CONCERNS OF OUR COMMUNITIES, AND THE VERY ESSENCE OF WHAT FEDUSA STANDS FOR. AS WE LEAVE THIS CONFERENCE, WE MUST CARRY WITH US A PROFOUND SENSE OF PURPOSE, A BURNING DESIRE TO ADDRESS THESE QUESTIONS COMPREHENSIVELY, CRITICALLY, AND EFFECTIVELY.**

**WE MUST ASK OURSELVES:**

**HOW CAN WE, AS FEDUSA, CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENSURING A JUST TRANSITION THAT DOESN'T LEAVE WORKERS BEHIND?**

**WHAT ROLE CAN WE PLAY IN ADVOCATING FOR A NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM THAT IS FAIR, ACCESSIBLE, AND SUSTAINABLE?**

**HOW DO WE STRENGTHEN THE VOICE OF LABOUR IN THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF OUR NATION?**

**WHAT MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN TO ENSURE RETIREMENT SECURITY FOR OUR MEMBERS?**

**HOW CAN WE REBUILD TRUST IN PUBLIC SERVANTS AND REINFORCE THEIR VITAL ROLE IN SOCIETY?**

**IN WHAT WAYS CAN FEDUSA AFFILIATES ADAPT TO THE CHANGING LABOUR LANDSCAPE, BOTH LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY?**

**HOW DO WE ADVOCATE FOR LABOUR LAWS THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE EVOLVING WORLD OF WORK?**

**WHAT DOES THE FUTURE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING LOOK LIKE, AND HOW CAN WE SHAPE IT?**

**AND, CRUCIALLY, HOW DO WE ADDRESS LABOUR UNREST AND BOOST PRODUCTIVITY IN OUR NATION?**

**THESE QUESTIONS ARE NOT MERE REFLECTIONS; THEY ARE CALLS TO ACTION. THEY REPRESENT THE ASPIRATIONS AND CONCERNS OF OUR AFFILIATES AND SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITIES. THEY ARE THE ROADMAPS TO A BETTER FUTURE, AND IT IS OUR DUTY TO NAVIGATE THEM WITH WISDOM, RESILIENCE, AND UNITY.**

**I WANT TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO ALL THE MEMBERS, DELEGATES, AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS WHO HAVE MADE THIS CONFERENCE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS. YOUR DEDICATION, INSIGHTS, AND COMMITMENT HAVE FUELLED THESE CRITICAL DISCUSSIONS, AND I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO INSPIRE US IN THE DAYS AND YEARS AHEAD.**

**IN CLOSING I WOULD LIKE TO QUOTE ONE OF OUR BRILLIANT MINDS VINCENT, THE QUOTE STATES “ THE CHANGE IS THE HEARTBEAT OF PROGRESS, AND IN OUR UNITY, WE FIND THE STRENGTH TO TRANSFORM CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES." LET US CARRY THE SPIRIT OF THIS CONFERENCE WITH US. LET US BE CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE, ADVOCATES FOR JUSTICE, AND ALLIES FOR WORKERS EVERYWHERE. TOGETHER, WE WILL ADDRESS THESE PRESSING QUESTIONS AND STEER OUR NATION AND ITS LABOUR MOVEMENT TOWARD A BRIGHTER, MORE EQUITABLE, AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE.**

**THANK YOU, AND MAY WE CONTINUE THIS JOURNEY WITH RENEWED VIGOUR AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION.**

**VIVA FEDUSA VIVA**

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