

**FEDUSA**

**President Speech at Dennis George Memorial Service**

**2023**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

TODAY, WE GATHER HERE WITH HEAVY HEARTS TO BID FAREWELL TO A REMARKABLE INDIVIDUAL, COMRADE DR DENNIS GEORGE. AS WE REFLECT ON HIS LIFE AND THE IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS HE MADE TO SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FEDERATION OF UNIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA (FEDUSA), WE ARE FILLED WITH A PROFOUND SENSE OF LOSS AND SADNESS. COMRADE DENNIS GEORGE WAS NOT ONLY A KIND SOUL BUT ALSO A TRUE GO-GETTER, WHOSE TIRELESS EFFORTS TRANSFORMED THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS WORKERS AND ELEVATED FEDUSA TO NEW HEIGHTS.

**~HERE TELLS YOUR PERSONAL SHORT STORY ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH DENNIS, BEST MOMENTS, E.G. TRAVELING’S, WORK COLLABORATIONS, AWARDS WITH DENNIS~**

FOR OVER TWO DECADES, DENNIS GEORGE SERVED AS THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF FEDUSA, A TENURE THAT WAS MARKED BY NUMEROUS VICTORIES FOR WORKERS. UNDER HIS VISIONARY LEADERSHIP, THE FEDERATION EXPERIENCED REMARKABLE GROWTH, EXPANDING ITS REACH AND INFLUENCE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. DENNIS POSSESSED AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE WELL-BEING AND RIGHTS OF WORKERS, AND HE TIRELESSLY FOUGHT FOR THEIR INTERESTS, ENSURING THEIR VOICES WERE HEARD AND THEIR RIGHTS PROTECTED.

DENNIS GEORGE WAS NOT JUST AN ADVOCATE FOR WORKERS WITHIN THE CONFINES OF FEDUSA; HE REPRESENTED THE ORGANIZATION WITH UNPARALLELED EXCELLENCE ON NUMEROUS NATIONAL PLATFORMS. HIS PRESENCE AND EXPERTISE WERE FELT IN CRUCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR COUNCIL, THE NATIONAL SKILLS AUTHORITY, AND THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING, AMONG OTHERS. THROUGH HIS PARTICIPATION IN THESE ESTEEMED BODIES, DENNIS WORKED TIRELESSLY TO SHAPE POLICIES AND DECISIONS THAT IMPACTED THE LIVES OF WORKERS NATIONWIDE.

BEYOND HIS OFFICIAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, DENNIS GEORGE WAS KNOWN FOR HIS COMPASSION AND GENUINE CARE FOR THOSE AROUND HIM. HE WAS ALWAYS WILLING TO LEND AN EAR, OFFER GUIDANCE, AND EXTEND A HELPING HAND TO THOSE IN NEED. HIS KIND AND APPROACHABLE NATURE ENDEARED HIM TO MANY, AND HE LEAVES BEHIND A LEGACY OF WARMTH AND EMPATHY THAT WILL BE CHERISHED BY ALL WHO HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF KNOWING HIM.

DENNIS GEORGE'S PASSING IS A PROFOUND LOSS FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND FEDUSA. HIS ABSENCE WILL BE KEENLY FELT, AND THE VOID HE LEAVES BEHIND WILL BE CHALLENGING TO FILL. HOWEVER, AS WE MOURN HIS DEPARTURE, LET US ALSO CELEBRATE THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE PROFOUND IMPACT HE HAD DURING HIS TIME WITH US. DENNIS'S UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF WORKERS AND HIS UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE WILL CONTINUE TO INSPIRE US ALL.

IN CLOSING, LET US REMEMBER DENNIS GEORGE AS A TRUE CHAMPION OF WORKERS' RIGHTS, A VISIONARY LEADER, AND A COMPASSIONATE HUMAN BEING. HIS LEGACY WILL FOREVER LIVE ON IN THE ANNALS OF FEDUSA'S HISTORY AND IN THE HEARTS OF ALL THOSE WHOSE LIVES HE TOUCHED. AS WE SAY GOODBYE TO OUR DEAR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, LET US CARRY FORWARD HIS SPIRIT AND CONTINUE THE NOBLE WORK HE STARTED. MAY DENNIS GEORGE'S SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE, KNOWING THAT HIS CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE MADE A LASTING DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS INDIVIDUALS.

THANK YOU.