



AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: AZAPO STANDING COMMITTEE (NATIONAL LEADERSHIP)

DATE: July 26, 2022

SUBJECT: AZAPO #ASINAMALI PROTEST ACTION & SUBSEQUENT SIT-IN AT THE NATIONAL OFFICES OF COGTA IN ARCADIA TSHWANE (PRETORIA)

The Deputy President of AZAPO Comrade Kekeletso Khena and the Secretary for Education Comrade Manku Noruka led the AZAPO **#ASINAMALI_PROTEST** at the NATIONAL OFFICES OF COGTA in Arcadia Tshwane as from earlier this afternoon, **Tuesday July 26, 2022**. *The protest action is against the annual municipal electricity, water, waste removal and property rates increases.*

Central to **the #ASINAMALI_PROTEST** which led to the subsequent sit-in at the National Offices of COGTA, is the high Inflation rate, which results in:

- A Rise in Food Prices
- A Hike in the Price of Petrol
- High Unemployment Rate

These increases come at the time when the economy is at its worst state. The last time AZANIA experienced an economic crisis of this magnitude was 13 years ago. To make matters worse the Reserve Bank has just increased interest rates with the short-sighted view of managing inflation as they would like the public to believe. Through the **#ASINAMALI_PROTEST**, which escalated into a sit-in (see pictures attached) at the COGTA offices earlier this evening, AZAPO demands, on behalf of Black people, the majority of whom are poor and unemployed, that the COGTA Minister implores government to meet its citizens half-way - **by reversing the 22/23 Financial Year increases in municipal rates with immediate effect**. There should also be a **1-year moratorium on such increases to allow citizens an opportunity to rebuild their economic wherewithal**.

Government intervention is necessary because Corporates don't care about the welfare of citizens, especially of Black poor people. Theirs is pursuit of the profit motive even if that means squeezing the vulnerable consumer. A **#ReLionisedAZAPO** cannot fold her arms and allow this degrading of the Black masses to continue unchallenged.

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Earlier at around 22h00 the AZAPO leadership at the **#ASINAMALI_PROTEST** engaged the Minister's spokesperson, and the result was a telephone conversation with the Minister who is currently in KZN. There is now an understanding between Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and AZAPO for the need of an urgent meeting sometime this week to deliberate on AZAPO's demands as outlined in the memorandum of demand attached. On the basis on this development AZAPO resolved to temporarily suspend the nationwide protest and sit-in at various municipalities and provincial COGTA offices until AZAPO's demands are met.

-Ends-

Issued via AZAPO Department of Publicity & Information

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