

NATIONALISE MINES TO STOP POOR'S MISERY!

I AGREE with Cosatu: our economic policies haven't done enough to undo the economic basics of apartheid.

This should prompt the government and policy makers to seek a new economic growth path that will lift the poor from the crippling unemployment, poverty and other social ills they still battle with 16 years after the demise of one of the most oppressive systems in the world against the black race.

It's useless to talk about fears of investors and how good our economic policies are, when no clear plan exists of how the most people, who are still poor, will be freed from their misery.

Here nationalisation of

mineral resources comes in.

The MPRDA Act of 2002 provides "for equitable access to and sustainable development of the nation's minerals and petroleum resources".

The act affirms the state's duty "to promote economic and social development . . . to reform to bring about equitable access to SA's minerals" and to take "under the Constitution . . . legislative and other measures to redress the results of past racial discrimination".

Critics of nationalisation say the state is involved in the regulating of licensing, exploration and mining of these resources, and is therefore promoting economic and

social development.

But it's untrue, as the mining industry was reluctant, and in a few cases, hampered to fulfil some of their commitments.

The KIO report states that SA's mines dragged their feet on the transformation of their ownership structures.

This is an indictment of the mining industry and a clear indication that BEE failed in the mining sector.

SA was shown to be the wealthiest country regarding mineral deposits and mineral reserves, and this makes the ANCYL call for nationalisation very relevant and necessary.

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