

Country Report South Africa

for 3rd International Automotive Workers Conference April 20-24, 2025

From Vereeniging South Africa to Pune India, a journey of thousands miles by the locomotive forces and the engines of change, the International Automotive Workers Coordination. This is a Consolidated Report of the IAC Committee of South Africa towards the 3rd IAC Conference in Pune India on the 20th to the 24th of November 2025.

South Africa's economy, its social and political governmental institutions remain neo-colonial in character. The former colonial powers continue to own and control the minerals, resources and the productive lands and assets of our country. The government of the ANC has since 1994 made the policy of privatisation of strategic Industry their economic policy. They plan to privatise ESKOM our electricity and power generator, the South African Airways, TRANSNET, PORTNET, TELKOM, POST OFFICE, to name just a few. The effects of privatisation have dire consequences for us the poor and the working class.

We have since witnessed excessive Outsourcing of Factory areas and production work, Factory Divisions and Departments. This has resulted in severe losses of Benefits to workers, reduction of wages, salaries and incomes accompanied by increased workloads. This is a sign of a deterioration of work conditions leading to widening of the Gaps between the rich and the poor.

The introduction of Lean Manufacturing, the reduction of the TAKT TIME in production and the advent of Lean Administration have led to aggressive headcount reduction in several of our Factories. In every 5 years or 10 years we experience massive lay-offs, massive reduction of workers being replaced by the Tools, the Instruments, the Machines, the Equipment, the Robots, the Internet of Things and presently the Artificial Intelligence and the machination of production areas and service areas. These are directly responsible for the Unemployment of the Youth, the Women and the people in general. They stand and do work exactly at the places where our youth and women should be working.

The above attacks on our jobs, our rights, and our lives in general are often met with resistance by workers, the working class and the poor in general. Towards the end of the 2023 we experienced several mass actions, demonstrations and campaigns carried out by the organised Labour, the Trade unions and their families under SAFTU, COSATU, NUMSA and many others. And the demands were very clear and directed to the Bosses and the Employers in that they should not shift the burdens of COVID19, the burdens of Wars and the burdens of the Environmental Catastrophe back to the working class under circumstances where the poor had no role in these calamities in the first place. The demands were against the ever rising costs of living (the food prices, the fuel prices, the energy prices, etc.) amidst the continued massive jobs cut across all industries and the economy in the country.

It is for this reason that we as the South African coordination wish to extend our invitation to this historical Conference to give a deep consideration, thoughts and discussions of joining broader forums for advancing our collective struggles. We are more than convinced that the IAC has to have a clearly defined relationship with the International United Front against Imperialism, Fascism, Wars and Environmental Destruction and Catastrophe.

A clear example of achievements of the collective struggles of the Broader Forums around the world is the agreements of the "Cease Fire" in Gaza. This we must claim and credit the masses of our people from one city to another from one country to the other from Continent to the other. And we must never allow the so called world leaders to claim it as their victory. It is our people on the streets who have braved the cold and rainy weathers, who have braved the very hot and humid weathers, who have braved the brutality of police and soldiers in their respective countries marching and demonstrating for the end of the Genocide in Gaza.

We need everyone, workers in the IAC, all Workers in all Industries, the Women, the Youth, the Students and the Apprentices, all of us organised and coordinated under the International United Front against Imperialism, Fascism, the Wars, and the Environmental Catastrophe etc.

THE FIGHT BACK BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE SUPREMACISTS AND RACISTS

This Conference takes place during an up surge and new wave of Fascism and Racism worldwide. The return of Donald Trump in the white house and his friendship with the South African born richest man in the world Elon Musk, who openly campaigned for several right-wing politicians, political parties and the right-wing governments. He organised for a group of white Supremacist and Racist South Africans to visit Donald Trump to lie to him about Racism against white people in SA and that there is a Genocide against them. To this day SA has no Ambassador to the USA, and we suffer the worse Business, Trade and Economic sanctions by the USA. All this because of white Supremacist and Racist South Africans who asked Trump to punish South Africa. As a results Auto Manufacturers are closing down in South Africa because Trump did not renew AGOA (a trade agreement between Southern African countries and the USA).

Dear friends, dear colleagues and dear comrades, we need your support in the fight against the return to power and the fight back by the South African white Supremacists and Racists in South Africa.

**Forward to International Automotive Workers Coordination!!
Forward!!!**