

Campaign against labour broking mooted

28 October 2009

Vusi Ndlovu

THE call to ban labour brokers gained momentum yesterday when Cosatu and the Young Communist League called for a strong movement to drive the campaign.

YCL and Chris Hani Institute held a seminar at Cosatu House in Johannesburg. The gathering was addressed by the labour federation's president, Sdumo Dlamini, and YCL general secretary Buti Manamela.

The two leaders called for the mobilisation of youth organisations, civil society, labour movement and the victims of labour broking to denounce the practise.

They hit hard at politicians and government officials who had secured jobs in Parliament but participated in an "exploitative" practise which they described as modern day slavery.

Manamela issued a warning: "We will name and shame senior government officials, executives such as director-generals and directors who say Cosatu is bullying on the matter as they say the industry (labour broking) should be regulated. "

He mentioned auto-manufacturing and mining as industries most notorious for labour broking.

A woman who attended the seminar with her colleagues – they were straight from a mediation process – came close to tears as she related their story.

She said about 65 of them were employed by a labour broking company to work at a call centre of another company. She said they were dismissed when they wanted to go on leave.