

AB AHLALI BAAHI

THE WORKING CLASS LEADING THE STRUGGLE FOR LAND, HOUSING & DIGNITY

Delivered by Abahlali Baahi | Conference of the Left

1. Revolutionary Greetings

Comrades, revolutionary greetings. *Sithi Amandla!*

We bring greetings from the shacks, the informal settlements, the streets where Abahlali Baahi — the people who live here — organise daily for survival and for power.

We are a grassroots, civic and socialist movement of shack dwellers, tenants, the unemployed, and the Black working class. We are not “beneficiaries”. We are not “the poor waiting for houses”. We are the working class in motion. We are leaders of this struggle.

2. The Crisis is on Our Doorsteps

The crisis comrades speak of is not abstract for Abahlali Baahi. We live it every night.

No land. No housing. No water. No electricity. Evictions at 4am. Bulldozers before breakfast. Police bullets for those who refuse to move. While capital and the elite live in gated estates, the Black working class is dumped on floodplains and next to toxic dumps.

Neoliberal capitalism has no plan for us except removal. GEAR, ASGISA, “Breaking New Ground” — all words that built houses for capital and shacks for the people.

3. Abahlali Baahi is Political

Comrades, let us be clear: Abahlali Baahi is not just about “service delivery”. It is about **power**.

The land question is the national question. The housing question is the class question. When the Black working class is landless and homeless, we cannot speak of liberation.

1994 gave us a vote, but kept us in shacks. That is not Black Majority Rule. That is Black Majority Shack Dwellers.

4. Black Majority Rule Must Mean Land & Houses

For Abahlali Baahi, **Black Majority Rule** is meaningless if we still sleep under zinc. Real majority rule means the Black working class commands the land, the cities, the economy.

We cannot wait for capital to “develop” land for us. Land must be expropriated without compensation and placed under democratic, working-class control. Cities must be de-commodified. Housing must be a right, not a market.

5. Independent Constituent Assembly — Let Abahlali Write the Law

The neoliberal constitution protects property for the rich and evictions for the poor. Abahlali Baahi therefore call for an **Independent Constituent Assembly**, elected by the Black working class and oppressed — including shack dwellers.

Let those who live in the mud write the laws on land. Let those who face eviction write the laws on housing. Only then will “housing for all” stop being a slogan and become a plan.

6. Black Working Class Leadership — From the Shack to the Front

The future of Azania will not be designed in boardrooms. It will be organised in mass meetings under a tree, in candle-lit shacks, in street committees.

Black Working Class Leadership means Abahlali Baahi lead. Women who fight evictions daily must lead. Unemployed youth who defend the land must lead. Not NGOs. Not elites. Workers and shack dwellers must command.

Intellectuals can serve, but Abahlali must decide.

7. Our Programme is Clear

Abahlali Baahi demand:

- 1. Land now** — expropriation without compensation, under democratic community control.
- 2. Housing as a right** — mass public housing, built by and for workers, not for profit.
- 3. No more evictions** — criminalise the bulldozer, not the poor.
- 4. Basic services** — water, electricity, sanitation, refuse removal as public goods, not commodities.
- 5. Stop police and private security violence** — the state must protect the people, not capital.

And beyond demands: we are already building alternatives. Street committees. Communes. Community kitchens. Occupations that say “we are here, we will not move”. That is embryonic socialism.

8. Conclusion: Abahlali Baahi to the Front

Comrades, the Left cannot exist if it ignores Abahlali Baahi. Any “Conference of the Left” that does not put landless, homeless workers at the centre is a conference of elites.

The crisis of neoliberal capitalism is a crisis of land and housing. The solution is socialism led by the working class. And the working class in Azania lives in the shacks.

So let the message go out: *Abahlali Baahi are not the problem. Abahlali Baahi are the solution.*

***No liberation without Black Majority Rule.
No transformation without an Independent Constituent Assembly.
No socialism without Black Working Class Leadership.***

**Abahlali Baahi to the front!
Amandla! Awethu!**