



# Celebrating an Iconic South African Hero **ELIJAH BARAYI**

fighting for justice, equality and democracy

#ElijahBarayi2024 #30YearsCommemorationOfElijahBarayi  
#WorkersMonth #30YearsOfFreedom

## 2024 | ELIJAH BARAYI LABOUR LAW LECTURE



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# INAUGURAL ELIJAH BARAYI LECTURE

In celebrating 30 years of democracy, the Inaugural Elijah Barayi celebrates the life of Elijah Barayi, a pivotal figure in South Africa's labour movement and the struggle against apartheid. Barayi's leadership within organizations like COSATU and NUM, as well as his role in organizing historic strikes, contributed significantly to dismantling apartheid. His international alliances further isolated the apartheid regime.

Beyond his activism within South Africa, Barayi also played a key role on the international stage, forging alliances with labour movements around the world and garnering support for the anti-apartheid struggle. His efforts helped to isolate the apartheid regime and bring global attention to the injustices being perpetrated in South Africa.

Given that he was fighting for social justice, social cohesion, and labour rights, as a result of his ideals and selfless struggles, Elijah Barayi's advocacy for labour rights in South Africa led to the establishment of minimum wage laws, improved working conditions, and recognition of trade unions. His pursuit of social justice spurred affirmative action policies, addressing apartheid's economic disparities. Barayi's legacy empowered marginalized groups politically, fostering engagement and representation.

He advocated for inclusive economic development, promoting initiatives like black economic empowerment. Internationally, Barayi's activism garnered support for South Africa's anti-apartheid movement, inspiring solidarity efforts and positioning the country as a symbol of hope for other nations.

Amidst the achievements, we acknowledge the ongoing challenges in South Africa, including economic inequality, unemployment, education disparities, healthcare access, crime, corruption, and land reform.

To ensure that his struggles and contributions were not in vain, the Government is hard at work addressing these challenges by focusing on job creation, education reform, healthcare improvements, crime prevention, anti-corruption measures, land reform, and strengthening democratic institutions.

The life of Elijah Barayi is a call for us to draw inspiration from his principles of unity, equality, justice, empowerment, and solidarity to address these challenges. It is imperative to commit to honouring Barayi's legacy, advocating for social justice, equality, and solidarity to build a brighter future for all South Africans.



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