

## **“A marriage of convenience”**

***“I joined NFTE alliance to save my skin,  
but I came out of it to save my soul”***

*[Com. K. Vallinayagam, SG, FNTO, in BSNLEU's CEC meeting at Hyderabad,  
after withdrawing from NFTE's alliance.]*

FNTO, which was with us in the United Forum till recently, has once again walked over to the side of NFTE. Earlier, FNTO was telling that it would form a 'third front' under its own leadership. But, having found that there were no takers for the so called 'third front', FNTO has silently joined NFTE's alliance. All the efforts made by FNTO to break the United Forum have failed. It could not take away even a single partner of the UF with it. In fact it is FNTO which has landed in isolation now.

All of us remember well that FNTO parted company with NFTE, by accusing that NFTE was supporting the anti-worker policies of the BSNL management like VRS, CRS etc. Now they want to salvage BSNL workers by joining hands with the same NFTE! This alliance is nothing but a marriage of convenience.

FNTO has leveled many false allegations against us. As far as we are concerned, we have maintained alliance dharma meticulously. We gave due respect to the FNTO leaders. In places where differences had come up, we had honestly intervened and settled. Our General Secretary and Deputy General Secretary themselves had gone to many places to personally intervene and sort out the differences. Despite our best efforts, problems existed in a few circles. But BSNLEU alone is not responsible for this.

When FNTO was in alliance with NFTE, its members were poached by NFTE in large scale. But during the period when FNTO was with us, we maintained self restraint and never poached their members. Similarly, when the facility of recovery of union subscription was extended to unrecognized unions, many of our circle unions wanted it to be cancelled. But we firmly rejected the proposal. However, our UP (East) circle union filed a court case without the approval of the CHQ. CHQ gave the direction to withdraw the case and it has since been withdrawn.

For reasons best known to them, FNTO leadership has chosen to break away from the United Forum. May be, by joining NFTE's alliance FNTO has decided to once again lose its soul. BSNL employees will give a fitting reply to their opportunism.

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