

Socialist Worker

SAY NO TO THE
ZANU (PF) CONSTI-
TUTION

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5 February 2000
Rotten Row - 9 am

Monthly Newspaper of the International Socialist Organisation (Zimbabwe)

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REFERENDUM

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NO!

VOTE NO

X

MDC NDIZVO!

CHECHNYA

Russia follows NATO tactics

RUSSIAN FORCES invaded Grozny in the break-away republic of Chechnya in mid-November last year. Since then they have waged a savage war to crush this tiny republic which is fighting for independence from Russian rule.

The Russians have followed the NATO style of bombarding civilian centres, massacring hundreds of civilians.

Just like the NATO leaders, the Russian leaders have come up with propaganda to justify their attacks. They blame Chechen "terrorists" for launching attacks on the neighbouring republic of Dagestan and for a spate of bomb attacks in Russia.

The Chechen people have been subjected to repeated waves of repression from Russia for a long time. 200 years ago the Russian empire conquered Chechnya and imposed brutal rule. They only got some temporary measure of independence after the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, but this was not for long. When Stalin took over he used all methods of the Tsars to subjugate the Chechen people in his bid to make Russia a world power.

In 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed, Chechnya broke away and declared independence. In 1994 when Boris Yeltsin took over he ordered his troops to occupy Grozny in a savage civil war in which thousands of civilians were killed. However, the offensive failed with large Russian losses.

The real reason behind the Russian invasion is not to wipe out terrorists as they claim. But in fact Chechnya occupies an important strategic position near the vast oil fields of the Caspian Sea. The Russian rulers want to control the pipeline that runs through Chechnya and grab part of the huge Caspian wealth.

The Russian rulers also hope that a victory over Chechnya will restore the army as a confident fighting force in preparation for a future offensive to regain the influence lost with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Russia also wants to prove to the US and the IMF that it is the big cop of this oil rich region and thereby continue getting loans. So far leaders of the NATO powers have only issued mild criticisms of Russia, with Clinton praising Yeltsin's successor, Vladimir Putin, saying "We are always together on the core points" adding that Putin "had got off to a good start". Nothing was said about the bloody war in Chechnya.

Without a socialist revolutionary alternative, whatever, the final outcome of the war will be, the losers are the ordinary people in both countries. Chechen civilians are dying whilst the economic crisis in Russia is biting the ordinary people the most. Working people must unite and fight back for a revolutionary alternative and gain back the experience they enjoyed for a short time after the Bolshevik revolution before Stalinism took over. -

by Tafadzwa Sando

Free Mumia Abu Jamal – Abolish Death Penalty!

Mumia Abu Jamal, the well known anti-racist activist and journalist could be executed soon. Mumia has been on death row for 17 years awaiting execution, is a former member of the Black Panther Party which stood for the defence and rights of blacks.

The Panthers were exterminated by successive racist American lynch mob governments. He was framed for the murder of a police officer.

His lawyers have put in a last ditch application for retrial. They will get an answer at the end of February. But only a tremendous international campaign can save him, as this case will not be won in the courts but in the streets. This is what happened in 1995 when Jamal was about to be executed but a massive international outpouring of support and demonstrations including in Zimbabwe and South Africa stopped the execution at the last minute.

Save Kachipare!

The death penalty the world over is overwhelmingly used against the poor, or other oppressed social groups like in the case of Sukoluhle Kachipare, who has been sentenced to death for aiding her domestic worker to kill her infant child. But working class women are forced into such acts because of poverty and deprivation caused by the capitalist system. Chefs and bosses are hardly ever touched by the death penalty and even where they are rulers like Mugabe use their prerogative of mercy to pardon them.

One of the reasons why we must reject the draft Chidyausiku Commission is because it retains the death penalty. Abolish the Death Penalty! - *By Luke Bhukarin*

Cote d'Ivoire coup

The coup in Cote d'Ivoire on 24 December shows the growing political crisis in Africa resulting from the economic crisis created by the free market reforms.

President Henri Konan Bedie was toppled within 24 hours of the first coup shot being fired. The support General Robert Guei got from the public does not mean that workers prefer military rule to civilian one, but rather is a clear sign of desperation on the part of the oppressed in the absence of a revolutionary alternative.

Workers and the poor had been on the receiving end for a long time on the free market IMF sponsored policies of the Bedie government and its predecessors.

Faced with growing disillusionment from the workers and the urban poor, Bedie played one of the oldest tricks of capitalist divide and rule. He barred his opponents from running in the presidential election on the pretext that he was of foreign origin just like Chiluba did with Kaunda in Zambia.

However, the fall of Bedie shows that the era of nationalist jingoism or patriotism as a tool to hoodwink the masses is over. The real alternative for the African working class is the building of revolutionary socialist parties to fight the local bosses with their international masters.

By Luke Bhukarin

Civil Servants Victory - Organised Militancy Is The Way Forward - *by E Simukai*

TOWARDS the end of last year, the three main unions representing 180,000 government workers threatened a massive strike over wage increases by mid-January.

Faced with such a massive strike similar to the 1996 strike, the rotten ZANU-PF government caved in claiming that such an increase was long overdue.

Whilst government workers deserved higher rises, it is not true that the government gave them because they were overdue. The reasons are connected to the elections due just weeks away.

Firstly, a massive strike just before the elections would have sealed the coffin of ZANU-PF. It would have given the MDC a golden opportunity of intervening to ensure massive support among government workers and would have also ensured more support for the MDC among other sections of workers.

Secondly, the decaying ZANU-PF government tried to buy the loyalty of starving government workers. With such increases ZANU-PF thought it could bribe workers for votes.

While the government prevented strike from occurring, its bribery attempt failed. The real wages of workers has not risen as inflation stands at 70%. Government workers are still demanding an extra 30%.

The awarding of such increments will have far-reaching effects. The ZCTU called for a 40% rise while government workers were awarded 70-90% rises. The workers in the private sector, most of whom earn below \$ 3,000, will be demanding more in light of the government rises.

Given the current crisis and expectations, bosses will not easily give in to high demands. Already there is talk of only 15% in most industries and NECs.

The war between workers and bosses is going to intensify. Suffering workers cannot continue to live on the present wages whilst bosses are not

prepared to part with their profits.

The real wages of workers has declined by 60% over the last decade. While government workers may be slightly better paid, their wage rises do not match inflation and provide only some relief to the grinding poverty that affects 90% of the population. Both government and private sector workers suffer the same.

The civil servants victory has had two effects. It has given civil servants the confidence to fight for more. It has also pushed private sector workers to demand higher increments than "their" bosses are offering. Private sector workers are learning that organised action is more powerful than the government as evidenced by the government workers.

It is clear that workers are not going to wait for collective bargaining to demand more pay. Demands have already started to be made. ZBC workers took industrial action demanding similar increases as those awarded to government workers. Fearing the militant mood amongst workers, PTC bosses were reported to have awarded workers rises along the lines of government workers.

If bosses in other sectors do not offer what workers are demanding, indications point to massive confrontations nation-wide and industry wide.

This now calls into question the role that the MDC should take.

Being born out of struggle, the workers movement must take a leading role in the struggle. The government has started to deduct the hated AIDS levy thus robbing workers even more. Action must now be planned and organised for strikes and stay-aways.

Mass action now will not only provide a guarantee for better wages, but will also bury the ZANU-PF government at the elections.

The MDC was born out of struggle. The ZANU-PF government must also be buried out of struggle.

AIDS Levy – Stay Away Now!

THE ZCTU leadership has post-poned the stay-away against the Aids Levy, "until further negotiations with government."

We believe this is a wrong strategy. It seems the ZCTU leadership felt that it might not get adequate support for the stay-away especially after the demonstrations in support of the levy organised by the People Living with Aids Network +.

However, the labour forums since called by the ZCTU like the one held in Harare at the Cathedral on 19 January showed the opposite. All the workers present voted for an immediate stay-away should the government deduct the AIDS levy this month. Indeed in one company in Southerton industrial area, when the bosses announced to the workers that they would deduct the tax, the workers warned them that if they did they would immediately go on strike, saying "nga auye azoitora pachake Mugabe."

When Tsvangirai finished addressing an MDC rally at Highfields early in January, many workers shouted, "ko stay-away ye AIDS Levy iriko rini?" Workers have correctly dismissed the argument that the amount being deducted is very small, saying that once the government has the right to take the money nothing will stop it from increasing the tax in future.

The call for the stay-away is justified for a number of reasons. Firstly Mugabe's government cannot be trusted that it will use this money to give its chefs new Mercedes Benz or abuse some of it in the DRC. This is what happened to the Drought Levy and War Victims Compensation Fund. Zanu PF chefs know that their days are numbered as the MDC will smash them at the general elections. So they want to loot as much as they can.

Secondly they are not being honest. People are not only dying of AIDS but many other preventable diseases like TB, Cholera etc which are caused by poverty. The hospitals and clinics are without drugs or basic things like gloves. Yet the government gave more money to Defence than health,

whilst the hospitals are collapsing. What is needed is a complete overhaul of the entire health system to deal with the health crisis.

Chefs and the rich don't really care about these things or even AIDS because they can buy the most expensive drugs or be treated abroad. AIDS and other diseases are killing workers and the poor.

Action is the real way forward and not negotiations that are being pushed by the ZCTU leaders – they should have learn the lesson in 1998 that talks with bosses and Zanu PF don't work, when they cancelled the 5 day- stay away for useless negotiations on a so-called social contract. Action is the only language they understand.

The stay-away must now go on, but in a class conscious manner. Bosses organisations like CZI and EMCOZ have joined the call for the removal of the levy. But they are not our friends – they are the ones who give us starvation wages at work and one of the main reasons why the health sector and other social sectors like education have collapsed is because taxes on bosses were massively cut under ESAP, with the little left looted by the Zanu PF chefs. The MDC and ZCTU must demand an increase on the taxes on bosses and the rich to fund the overhaul of the entire health system. However workers and the lower middle classes should not pay any such taxes, because after all they are the ones who are already looking after AIDS patients.

A good strategy to make the stay-away more effective it could be linked to the constitutional No Vote campaign. One of the reasons we must reject the Zanu PF draft constitution is that it does not guarantee a right to health including for AIDS patients.

The stay-away could be called for Friday the 11th February 2 000 just a day before people go and vote. However, instead of staying at home workers would join house wives, students and the youth in massive demonstrations in the key urban centres.

Zanu PF Propaganda Machinery Targets ISO

A SIGN of the growing desperation of the ruling party is the extent of the cheap propaganda it is now resorting to. During the December Zanu PF congress, the ZBC issued a statement that the International Socialist Organisation was attending the congress.

This was a brazen and naked propaganda lie designed to sow confusion and mistrust in the working class movement, which unfortunately caught some gullible elements in the labour movement. ISO, locally and internationally is a socialist and revolutionary organisation that has nothing to do with bosses' parties like Zanu PF which have brought untold misery to ordinary people and calls for their overthrow by workers and the poor. ISO has a proud record in the struggle against the Zanu PF dictatorship from the 1992 ZCTU demonstrations, the 1995 Anti-Police Demonstrations, the 1996 government workers general strike, the ZCTU Stay-Aways and the 1998 Bread Riots and indeed many of its cadres have been harassed by the state machinery. Indeed ISO was the first organisation to start calling on the ZCTU to form a workers party to remove Zanu PF.

Indeed it is for these reasons that Zanu PF would love to see bodies like ISO separated from the MDC, so as to weaken it. Not surprising the entire press ignored the ISO Press Statement issued during the congress denouncing the mischievous ZBC report.

As we move towards the referendum and elections we are likely to see

more of these cheap divide and rule propaganda shots fired by Zanu PF. Already during the construction workers demonstration of the construction workers on 7 December The Herald tried to create an image of animosity between ISO and the ZCTU and followed it the following week-end with a blistering editorial attack on the ISO encouraging its expulsion from the NCA.

Similarly we saw the same trick being used against ZCTU secretary general, Morgan Tsvangirai over the government workers increments, with the ZBC and state media trying to set him and the MDC against the government workers by claiming he had said they should not have been given the 90 percent wage increments.

We must therefore become very alert to these divisive tactics of Zanu PF, which even now as we go to press has used \$10 million of tax payers money to hire a South African propaganda firm called Nerf Communications Limited to spread rubbish about the opposition and rig the elections.

However as we stated in our press statement, "such cheap propaganda lies will not stop the forward movement of the working class of this country, in the form of the M.D.C. which will see Zanu PF discarded in the dustbin of history, where it rightly belongs."

Luke Bhukarin - ISO National Coordinator

Demand Free Safe Abortion Facilities!

by Tonderai Nyika

'**ABORTION IS MURDER**' that is the argument being used by the anti-abortionists in opposing calls for the inclusion of the right to abortion in any new constitution.

What murder? Abortion is a class issue. The current ban on abortions is the real murder. Over 75 000 black working class women end up ill, permanently maimed or dead from illegal back-street abortions every year in Zimbabwe.

On the other hand middle class women, white and black can easily afford expensive private doctors in Zimbabwe, South Africa or even the UK to do safe abortions. Currently abortion is only allowed for very restricted reasons such as when the pregnancy is a threat to the health of the mother or is a result of incest or rape.

But there are other reasons why women abort, including economic hardships or that the mother might not be yet ready to start a family because of school or work.

But these reasons are not allowed. Even where abortion is allowed, it involves an embarrassing, time consuming process in which the woman will be dragged through hostile courts. Most women would rather not go through that or even when they do the operation will be more complicated and riskier than an early abortion.

The reasons why working class women abort are real. What right do well fed middle class bigots have to preach to women who abort because they know they will not be able to afford to give their children the necessities of life like accommodation, food, clothing, transport, health and also entertainment. No woman wants her child to end up as a street kid or unemployed teenager who roams the street everyday. The right to life means more than just breathing air.

Women abort not because they are immoral or evil but because of the real hardships that ordinary people suffer under capitalism – otherwise why would they go through the emotional and traumatic experience of illegal back-street abortions?

The real reason why bosses and their paid agents in the churches oppose abortion is because they want working class women to breed future workers without impediment. They also oppose abortion because it gives women greater control over their own sexuality, which is a threat to the male dominated family institution. Capitalism uses the family institution to nourish current workers, look after the elderly and future generations of workers, but without paying for it as women do these jobs as unpaid domestic labour.

To me it is an issue of personal freedom. Human society has long moved beyond the stage where women should be socially imprisoned because of their role in reproduction. The societies, which relied on the male, dominated family as the basic economic unit of society and therefore found it necessary to suppress women's sexuality and rights have long gone. Today

society no longer relies on the family as the basic economic unit of production, which is the reason why women were originally oppressed.

The bosses only retain the male dominated family for their own greedy.

It is inhuman that so many women should be denied safe abortion simply because she fell pregnant in the first place or rather that she enjoyed sex in the first place. Sex is a natural human need, which unfortunately for women at certain periods of their lives is also linked to reproduction.

But we now live in a society where we have the technology to control our own reproduction – to separate sex and reproduction. This is advancement over animals, which have no choice.

Animals reproduce automatically because of their sexual instincts. Humans have the same instincts but have now mastered the technology to separate sex and procreation, thus enjoying the pleasures of sex without the burden of an unwanted pregnancy. This can be done either through birth control methods or safe abortion.

However, many working class women cannot afford birth control facilities because of their poverty created by capitalism or are afraid to use them because of emotional and moral threats from religious bigots like the Roman Catholic Church which opposes use of contraceptives.

So when such women fall pregnant who should make the choice: – Should it be the government – or should the religious leaders control women's reproduction? Or should it be the woman herself?

We say that it is the woman's body and therefore she alone must make the decision, moreso when the bosses insist that it is her duty alone (or with her husband) to look after the child once its born. We therefore demand a complete right to abortion in the new constitution.

However, for most women, true liberation will require more than a mere change in the law. Working class women and peasants are not oppressed only by law but by class. For them a mere legal right to abortion is next to useless unless it includes the right to free and safe abortion facilities.

In the short-term we must therefore demand the right to free and safe abortion facilities on demand to all women at all public and private health institutions funded by taxes on the bosses and the rich. We must demand that this be included in the MDC manifesto and in the new constitution.

But the only way we can defend such a right in the long-term is through overthrow of the bosses' system of capitalism itself which breeds the conditions of women's oppression. For as the example of other countries like the UK and USA have shown, whilst the capitalists may be forced to agree now under pressure, they will reverse them as soon as the pressure goes.

So the ultimate solution is to remove the bosses themselves, as happened in Russian in 1917 when workers led by the Bolsheviks, seized power and immediately passed many decrees in favour of ordinary people including that of the right to free and safe abortion on demand. So the struggle for abortion cannot be separated from the struggle for socialism.

FUEL CRISIS - NO TO PRIVATISATION!

By John Bomber and Rosa Zulu

AS we go to press, the shortage of fuel, diesel in particular, shows no sign of ending despite repeated claims from Enos Chikowore and NOCZIM management.

The fuel crisis erupted after years of mis-management, inefficiency and looting at NOCZIM through the ZANU-PF government. It has resulted in commuter and bus fares for workers rising sharply. The rises have also been in part due to IMF / World Bank demands that the sale of fuel be privatised.

Already companies like Total have began pushing that individual

fuel companies (Total, Caltex, Shell BP) be allowed to import fuel directly and that so-called market prices be allowed to prevail.

This argument really means that while fuel may be available, its price will rise around 300%. This will mean that commuters to Chitungwiza will pay \$50 one way. It also means that prices of basic commodities will rise by similar amounts. Already workers are walking long distances as they cannot afford the already high fares.

The bosses at NOCZIM looted billions of dollars - helped by their

friends in Mugabe's government. The current crisis is also worsened by the fuel that is going to the DRC to fuel a looters war over the minerals there.

The way forward is not privatisation. Workers will pay for the looting, mis-management and corruption that was condoned by the ZANU-PF government.

We should demand that the state monopoly on fuel be kept and that the government and bosses subsidise the price of fuel. Bosses enjoy fuel perks and allowances so they must be taxed.

Zanu PF lies on Land

ZANU PF is claiming that it has now amended the draft constitution to ensure that it will take land from white commercial farmers to give to peasants without paying compensation.

But a closer look at the amendment shows that Zanu PF is playing its usual tricks. The amendment states that where land is taken for resettlement then the obligation to pay for the land would be with the former colonial power, namely Britain and that where this fails to pay the government would not be obliged to pay. But it goes on to say, however, if the government decided to pay it will pay fair compensation.

So if Zanu PF does not intend to pay the white commercial farmers, why even put it a clause in the constitution that says it will pay fair compensation? It's obvious that this amendment is nothing but a cheap propaganda tool meant to hoodwink peasants. After all Zanu PF has had the power since 1987 to have changed the constitution to allow it to take farms without compensation, but never did so. Instead the Zanu PF chefs have grabbed the few commercial farms that have been taken for themselves.

Agriculture Minister revealed the true colours of his government in a recent interview, when he said his government was very fair with the commercial farmers because "they were all very happy with the compensation paid to them - none had come complaining."

Zanu PF will never deliver land to peasants. Peasants and workers must join the MDC and demand that the manifesto of the party include a commitment that an MDC government will seize farms without paying compensation to give to landless peasants!

things they say about the draft (Zanu-PF) constitution

◆ "The draft is better than the Lancaster House Constitution, so it is better to accept the draft"
Themba Ngwenyama, Secretary General of Imbovane Yamahlabezulu.

◆ "We are writing our constitution under conditions of...corruption."
Ben Hlatshwayo, one of the constitutional commissioners.

What Bulawayo protesters said about the draft (Zanu--PF) constitution

◆ "...they want to rush us into voting 'Yes' in the referendum. What are you trying to hide?"
81 year old Philemon Ndlovu who shouted down Jonathon Moyo & Ben Hlatshwayo at a public constitutional commission meeting.

◆ "...tell your master that the people of Bulawayo have said no..."

◆ "What is the point of soliciting views from the public when their opinions will count for nothing in the final document?"

◆ "We spoke, you listened, then you ignored us."

◆ "You are traitors to the African continent, you black imperialist"

Zanu PF – Vakomana Muchamhanya! Chimurenga Explosion – Mukanya akadzvova

KUPERA kwe gore rapfuura Thomas Gandanga Mapfumo wakabura album razezesa zvigananda zve Zanu PF, rinonzi **Chimurenga Explosion**.

Muna "**Disaster**" Mukanya anobuditsa pachena huhwori ne udzvinyiriri hweka hurumende ke usvetasimba ke Zanu PF. Mapfumo anobudisa pachena kuti varombo hapana chava kawana pa Independence iyo yakanakira ma chef muna **Nhamo Zvakare**. "Nyika yenyu yamai chemera yavamvemve" rinodaro gandanga muna "**Mamvemve**". Kune vemumaruwa vaitarisira kuwana munda, Mukanya anoti vakagarira guyo sembwa achiti "Chipo, Jani bereka mwana tiende."

Asi chakasiyana album ra Mapfumo iri neamwe ake ose akare ndechekuti anobuda pachena kuti nguva yematsotsi e Zanu PF yakwana. Anovapa yambiro iripachena achiti ibai henyu "asi vakomana muchamhanya..." muna "Disaster"

Mukanya makare sevazhinji aimbopembedza Mugabe ne Zanu PF semuma alum akaita saana Geatest Hits, asi pana Explosion anotaridza kuti achinja maitiro kwete sevamwe vaimbi vachiri kungo batwa kumeso ne Zanu PF saana Mtukudzi vakaimba vachipembedza ka draft constitution ka Mugabe keutsotsi.

Kana usati wava neyako album iyi, mhanya kunotenga yako nekuti i Explosion zve shuwa!

International Socialist Organisation Meetings:

You are all invited to the weekly meetings of ISO. All that is required to attend is a healthy dosage of hatred for Zanu (PF), ESAP and bosses!

Harare:

City Centre: Saturdays 2.00 p.m. UZ: Attend City Centre
Glen View: Sundays 2.30 p.m. Graniteside: Phone 721762
Highfield: Sundays 2.30 p.m. Sourtherton: Phone 721762

Bulawayo:

City Centre: Thursday 5.30pm
NUST: see posters

For details on venues etc, write to PO Box 6758 Harare Tel. 721762 or Box FM 727 Famona Bulawayo, or ask **Socialist Worker** sellers or look out for posters.

Challenges for the Working Classes in the year 2 000

THE year 2 000 is likely to be a very important year on the calendar of working people and the poor in general in Zimbabwe. All indicators point to an explosion of class struggle in the next few months.

The period since 1996 generally saw an increase in working class consciousness that had not been seen before. It started with the massive 1996 government which had major influence on workers in the private sector. 1997 was to be a year of massive class conflict. The biggest wave of strikes There has been a general increase in working class consciousness since about 1996. Thousands of workers struck in virtually all industries pressing for better pay, whilst college students went on their first ever national demonstrations. Peasants led by the Svosve and Nyamandlovu peasants invaded commercial farms. The year ended with the dramatic demonstrations of the war veterans pressing for state pensions. On 9 December 1997 the ZCTU called its first ever stayaway, which shook the ruling classes to its roots.

Although 1998 opened with the January Bread Riots and the March stay-away the tempo cooled down by the end of the year and throughout most of 1999. This was a result of various factors like that bosses, fearful of events of the previous year quickly conceded to workers; demands and that the trade union leaders, especially in the ZCTU kept a tight lid on the workers, channelling this anger into useless tri-partite negotiations with the state and the bosses in a so-called social contract. Thus in spite of the fact that workers had overwhelmingly voted for a five day stayaway the ZCTU leaders unilaterally cancelled it.

The delay in forming the workers party also contributed to the slow down in working class militancy. However, by the end of 1999 it was clear that the reduction in class struggle was only temporary, what Trotsky has described as the calm before the storm.

From November government doctors went on a long strike protesting low wages. Workers in Mutare City Council and Rufaro Marketing also struck. Over five thousand construction workers went on a massive demonstration in the city centre demanding justice for the families of the fifteen workers killed at the CABS Millennium Tower.

But critically, the three largest public trade unions issued an ultimatum to on a general strike if the government did not award them wage increments by mid January. At the same time the ZCTU announced that it would call a stayaway in protest against the AIDS Levy in January whilst also demanding a 40 percent cost of living adjustment.

Even more critically is the escalating economic crisis which is likely to lead to political unrest, as the bosses attack workers and the poor. Inflation and interest rates are at an all-time high - and various bourgeois economists predict that things will get worse, squeezing out the productive base of the economy. The foreign currency situation is critical, a situation made worse by the DR Congo war. The poor are likely to be a hit by a wave of savage increases in the prices of all basic goods. This sets the scene for a return to the struggle of 1997 this year, as bosses' are likely

to want to pass the cost of their economic crisis on workers and the poor by giving little increments this year. Yet workers are in a fighting mood, and the victory of the government workers and the wage increments of over 100 percent won by the PTC workers are likely to increase their confidence. Already workers at CABS and Gweru City Council have gone on strike.

Another likely source of massive conflict, is likely to be the colleges where starting this year government has withdrawn funding for students, whilst at the same time increasing the various fees there by the cost recovery mechanism.

The bosses are not fooled no wonder why Barclays Bank local boss, Isaac Takawira did an unprecedented thing attacking the country as being leaderless and moving without direction.

So the next few months promise to result in a massive escalation of class struggle. However, it is very difficult to predict when exactly the explosion will occur, because of the grave lack of leadership in the working class movement. In 1998 the labour leaders acted like firemen saving the bosses' system by calling off the stayaways opting for useless negotiations with the bosses and the Zanu PF government.

There are already worrying signals that some of the leaders in the labour movement have not yet learnt this simply lesson that the government and the bosses will only make concessions if they are forced to do so by direct action. Already the stay-away has been postponed to an indefinite date. Some will try and persuade workers from direct action arguing that this will hurt the chances of the MDC at the elections. But this is nonsense. Workers and the poor want to see a fighting MDC, because they know that this is the only way they will kick out this bankrupt Zanu PF government. Cowardly and wavering leaders must be kicked out and replaced by those prepared to push the workers' struggle forward.

However, the severity of the economic and political crisis are such that if the leadership of organised labour wavers, mass spontaneous revolts, a hundred times bigger than the 1998 January Riots can easily occur, just as mass demonstrations against economic hardship erupted in Ecuador recently, resulting in the fall of a government.

However, as events in Ecuador and Indonesia in 1998 show, whilst such massive spontaneous actions by the masses are possible, including the overthrow of governments, unless they are led by an organised force, they will sooner or later succumb to the pressure of our old oppressors, who will come back in a new form.

The MDC can only play an effective role in the coming struggles, if it becomes a truly working people's party led by workers with a clear programme that puts the interests of workers, peasants and the poor in the forefront against those of the rich and the bosses' and their capitalist system.

By Munyamadzi Gwisai

Sharai Vashandi ne Varombo Kutangamira MDC

MA DELEGATES aungana pa congress yekutanga ye MDC vane basa guru. Rimwe rebasa ravo kushara hutangamira hucha tungamira MDC pa ma elections muna March.

Kubva pakaumbwa MDC muna September gore rapfuura pati yanga ichitungamirwa ne interim national executive iyo yainge isina kusharwa nevanhu.

Hongu pane basa rakaitwa nevaifano bato zvigaro ava, asi panezvishinji zvakasarira. Kunyanya i manifesto ye pati yedu. Manifesto inogodzamba dzamba panyaya yenzara. Haitauri nezvekodzero dzevashandi kana kuti varombo sekodzero ye strike, kana kuti vanhu vachaenda kuzipatara nekuzvikoro pachena kana kuti kuchaitwa ma price control ne ma subsidy uyezve kuti mari yokuita zvose izvi ichitorerwa kubva kuva pfumi ne mabhosi. Panyaya yeminda haibudi pachena kuti tichatorera mabhunu ne ma chef e Zanu PF mapurazi avakabvutira povo, pasina muripo watinovapa.

Izvi hazvi nyanyo shamisa nekuti vanhu vakanyora manifesto yedu havazi vashandi kana varombo. Pahutungamiri hwe interim national executive yedu ye MDC yevanhu 30 avo vanogara muma rokeshini havadariki 8, vazhinji vavo vachigara kuma sabhabha, kuno gara vakafunda kana vane mari. Uyezve vamwe vavo mumabsa avo vanoshanda kubaya vashandi kana kuti ndivana ma fikezulo avo vaimbova vanhu vekwa Smith.

Izvi zvinofanira kuchinja pa Congress. Ngatishare hutungamiri hwanga huchishanda nesu muma rokeshini, muma districts nemuma province e MDC. MDC I pati yevashandi nevarombo – saka vamwe vava vanodei pahuku yemuyeni. Kana wanga usiko ku toyi toyi kana kuma labour forum saka urikutsvagei nhasi? Asi hazvirevi kuti vose vanogara mumarokeshini kana vari muma trade union vanoda kuisa zvivo zvevarombo pamberi. Tisati tashara munhu kuti tungamira ngatione kuti akazvipira kumirira zvivo zveruzhinji here. Muhutungamiri hwedu ngatiisei o madzimai vanobva kuva shandi ne varombo vakati o kuti pati yedu inyatso simba.

BUILD AN MDC THAT FIGHTS POVERTY AND HUNGER

VOTE MUNYARADZI GWISAI - SECRETARY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

LONG HISTORY IN THE STRUGGLE

Gwisai has been involved in the struggle against the Zanu PF dictatorship and capitalism since his student days at the University of Zimbabwe in 1988, when he was the secretary general of the Arthur Mutambara led SRC in 1989 – 90. Gwisai played a key role in the struggles against corruption and the attempt by Zanu PF to impose a one party state. As a result of these activities Gwisai, Mutambara and other members of the SRC were detained in 1989 at Chikurubi Prison. The ZCTU strongly supported the students leading to the detention of ZCTU secretary general, Morgan Tsvangirai.

After graduating from UZ Gwisai in 1992 he was the legal advisor of the newly-formed ZCTU Midlands region. In 1995 he was suspended from his job as a law lecturer at the UZ for his leading role in the great strikes and demonstrations of UZ workers and students for better conditions. Since 1994 Gwisai has extensively assisted the labour movement including training trade unionists in the ZCTU paralegal course, giving legal advice and representing workers individually or in workers committees or trade unions, the latest of which includes dismissed workers at Utopia Farm, PTC technicians, Standard Chartered Bank. Gwisai also fought for human rights by going to the Supreme Court to have the right to practice as a lawyer with his dreadlocks. Today he is representing the five MDC youth from Budiriro who are being falsely charged with assaulting Zanu PF youth thugs.

As a socialist active in ISO, a socialist pressure group affiliated to the MDC, Gwisai has strongly supported ZCTU events like the 1997 – 1998 stay-aways or May Day Commemorations. ISO and its paper, Socialist Worker were some of the first civic groups to encourage the ZCTU to form a workers party to remove Zanu PF and ESAP. Many will remember the Socialist Worker stickers on buses and in Rufaro Stadium at the launch of the MDC or know Gwisai as a regular participant in ZCTU Labour Forums. As an ISO member Gwisai played key roles in activities like the 1995 Anti-Police Brutality Demonstrations, the 1996 government workers general strike, NCA marches, the 1998 Bread Demonstrations in which he was briefly detained for the ISO leaflet called Todya Marara Here? Because of its strong support for the ZCTU, MDC and workers struggles it is not surprising the ISO slogan of “Shinga Mushandi Shinga – Qina Msebenzi Qina” has become the slogan of workers in struggle.

B. REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PROGRAMME

MUNYARADZI GWISAI is standing on a revolutionary socialist platform. The MDC must be led by the working people themselves, with only a few progressive intellectuals with a solid history of working with the labour movement allowed. Today over 76 per cent of Zimbabweans lives in hard poverty, whilst a tiny portion of our society of less than 10 per cent including Zanu PF chiefs and the bosses gobbles all the wealth. The only way the majority can live and the economic crisis reversed is if this wealth is taken and used for the benefit of the majority, through increasing taxes on the bosses, cancelling the foreign debt and confiscating money looted by the Zanu PF chiefs. The money would be used to fund schools, clinics, provide subsidies for food and basic goods and do massive public programmes like building roads and houses which would also provide jobs to the millions of unemployed youth and regenerate economic growth. Land must be given to peasants from farms confiscated from the commercial farmers and Zanu PF chiefs without compensation. Laws to protect workers must be put like the right to strike, safety at work, minimum wages linked to inflation, protection of job security including casual workers. Full and equal rights for women. Ultimately only the unity of all workers of Africa and the world against the tribe of the bosses and the rich (the capitalists) through the establishment of socialism offers the way forward for workers, peasants and the poor. For holding such views that openly support the poor Gwisai and other socialists have been denounced and lied about by those who want to hijack the workers' struggle for the interests of the rich. Reject these evil machinations and fight for real change by nominating MUNYARADZI GWISAI as Secretary for Legal Affairs in the MDC National Executive.

TAX THE RICH TO FUND THE POOR Support an MDC Manifesto that Fights Hunger and Poverty

Socialist Worker welcomes all delegates to the inaugural MDC congress. You carry the hopes of many. One of the main tasks that you face is to come up with a simple manifesto that will lead the party into the March elections and constitute the blueprint that must bind the future MDC government. A manifesto does not need to be 30 pages long but merely simple statement of intentions and objectives. I suggest a model below to assist delegates in their discussions to come up with a true working people's manifesto that will declare war on poverty, hunger and ESAP.

- MDC is primarily a working people's party: that is workers, the unemployed, peasants and students and it is they who must fund and lead the party.
- MDC opposes and will stop market reforms and Zimprest (ESAP).
- MDC will use the state as the engine of economic recovery through initiating public programmes to build schools, hospitals, houses, dams & roads and create jobs.
- MDC will nationalise the major sectors of the economy and stop privatisation of state companies.
- MDC will provide free education, health facilities; subsidies for transport, food, houses and other basics and introduce a comprehensive social security scheme for the unemployed, elderly, disabled.
- MDC will introduce price controls on all basic goods and nationalise companies that oppose this.
- MDC will guarantee fair labour standards including the right to strike, minimum wages linked to inflation, safe working places, job security and reduce sales tax and income tax paid by workers.
- MDC will confiscate farms without paying compensation to give to peasants and farm-workers.
- MDC will stand for open transparent government. Citizens will have the right to recall corrupt or inefficient representatives.
- MDC will guarantee the full rights of women, including the right to free abortion, maternity leave on full pay and affirmative action and the rights of minorities.
- MDC will convene an Enquiry into Human Rights Abuses by the Zanu PF government, compensate the victims and jail the perpetrators. MDC will immediately pull out of the DRC war.
- MDC will repeal Mugabe's fake constitution and convene a Constitutional Assembly elected by all citizens on the proportional representation system to write a new democratic constitution.
- MDC will increase taxes on the bosses and the rich, unilaterally cancel the foreign debt and recover looted money by Zanu PF chiefs to fund the poor and its economic recovery programme.

The above programme is possible and realistic. It happened in 1980 when there was introduced: free education, hospitals, subsidies, price controls, minimum wages and high taxes on bosses and the rich. Other workers parties in the world have done it. So MDC can do it too!

REFERENDUM

Questions People Ask

Below Luke Bhukarin at some of the most common questions that people ask about the draft constitution that government propagandists like Jonathan Moyo are trying to persuade us day and night to vote for.

Q. Why is it so important to win the NO Vote in the Referendum?

The NO vote is so important because if we win it, it will remove the myth that Mugabe and Zanu PF cannot lose or be defeated. This will instill great confidence in many workers and the poor in their ability to fight for change in society. The referendum is the curtain raiser to the final. We give Zanu PF a yellow card at the referendum and the red card in the March elections.

Q. Are there other reasons why should we vote NO?

Ans: We should vote No because the draft constitution does not address bread and butter issues for ordinary people like the rights to work, health, education, housing and land. It is so because it was written by hand-picked rich people or their middle class puppets who made sure it protected their interests with so little for the workers and the poor. Secondly the draft constitution places too much power in one person, an executive President, ie Mugabe, although have made it clear that they don't want an executive president and wanted all leaders to be below 70 years of age. This draft constitution maintains Zanu PF's monopoly on power.

Q. Zanu PF has now included the land issue in the draft constitution, so why should we reject the draft constitution?

Zanu PF has been in power for nearly 20 years but have done nothing about the land question other than haul abuses and making endless promises to take the land. The amendment on land is vague and confusing not coming out clearly on whether land will be taken without paying compensation. We must fight for a constitution that clearly states that land will be taken without paying compensation to be given to the land less peasants.

Q. Why are people like Jonathan Moyo Defending the draft constitution so much?

These people initially said they would let the people decide on their own whether the draft constitution was good – but now they are using millions of public funds to try and force us to vote Yes. They know their document is defective. However, people like Jonathan Moyo, whom we call middle classes are puppets of the rich and the government to advance their own interests. Workers and the poor must always rely on themselves to fight for their rights rather than rely on the educated classes, who will quickly change positions depending on where they will be paid the most.

Musadzinge Vano rejisitisa kuvhota

Ruzhinji rwe vashandi harwuchadi Zanu PF nechitsotsi chayoy. Izvi zvava kupa kuti vanhu vafunge kuti chironzwa cheku rejisitisa vanhu chakatanga muna January i Zanu PF yatotanga utsotsi hwayo, saka varikudzanga vanhu vano rejisitisa padzimba dzavo.

Ku Highfields varikufamba vachiita basa iri vainge vodzingwa mudzimba vachinzi hatidi zvinhu zve Zanu PF zvechitsotsi.

Kwete tisadaroma comrades. Hongu Zanu PF matsotsi asi chakava konzera kuti vatage nyaya yeku rejesita vanhu ndechekuti vakamanikidzwa kudaro ne ma pati e opposition kunyanya MDC.

Zanu PF haidi kuti vanhu vazhinji va rejisite nekuti inoziva kuti haichadiwi nevanhu. Zvino vanhu vazhinji munyika muno ndeve chidiki, avo vazhinji vacho vasati va rejisita. Saka tikadzanga vanhu ava tinenge taisa pati yedu ye MDC pa disadvantage nekuti vashoma ivavo ve Zanu PF vanongono vhotavakaramba vachitonga.

Chodiwa ndechekuti ma districts ne ma wards e MDC atoendesa basa irimberu, nekuunganidza vanhu vasati vavhota panzvimbo imwe vane zvitupa zvavo vodana avo vano rejisita. Pokupedzisira tinofanira kuzoongorora ma rejisita ema vhota kuona kuti mazita edu aripo here, sezvo kuvunhu zve Zanu PF zvisina sure.

By M. Mutumburanzou

Q. But where is the NCA alternative constitution?

We do not believe the NCA has the right to write a draft constitution just like we reject the draft constitution of the Constitutional Commission because it was hand-picked. We believe the role of the NCA must simply be one of mobilising the various organisations and groups in society to reject the fake Zanu PF constitution and call for the convening of a truly democratic process to write the constitution, namely an elected constitutional assembly, in which the people who will write the constitution would have been directly elected by the people and their draft put to a referendum as happened in South Africa in 19994.

Q. Won't a NO vote Mean a Return to the Lancaster House Constitution?

A NO vote does not mean that we return to the Lancaster constitution. Such a vote would amount to a vote of no confidence in the government constitutional process. Zanu PF can only continue with the Lancaster constitution at its own peril. Its choices would be either to agree to a new constitutional process as demanded by the majority of Zimbabwe or risk massive civil unrest, as happened after Smith refused to follow the decision majority vote in the 1971 Pearce Commission Report, leading to the real start of the liberation war.

Q. Will a good, democratic constitution end hunger and poverty?

No! A democratic constitution only helps workers and the poor to better build their own organisations like trade unions and revolutionary parties so as to be able to better fight their class enemies the bosses and the rich (the capitalists.) Without placing the wealth of society in the hands of the majority, the working people, real power will always remain with the minority rich classes. This is why although South Africa has the most democratic constitution in the world, millions are still without jobs, houses, schools or adequate health facilities. The bosses and the rich will not just give up their property and privilege because a piece of paper called a constitution says so – they would rather go to war to defend these. Workers and the poor will therefore have to fight them and seize this wealth in a socialist revolution if society is to move forward. Winning little reforms like those of a new constitution helps increase the confidence of workers for the real big fight ahead.

Constitutional Commissioners Humiliated by Students Countrywide - By John Bomber

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSIONERS have been humiliated by students wherever they have been. From the UZ and Harare Polytechnic to NUST, they have had to endure public humiliation as they tried desperately to get students to be part of their constitution circus of monkey.

High School Students

One of their latest attempts proved yet another big humiliation in Bulawayo when they bused hundreds of High School students into a meeting. The commissioners thought they were organising blind baboons who would jump on their commission circus wagons as they thought students have a low political consciousness who could be easily manipulated.

Puppet headmasters were ordered to force students into buses. Even teachers had no idea what was going on. As a result, students only had two lessons that day.

The meeting organisers openly bribed the students by handing out almost 3000 T-Shirts with a big "Yes" printed on them.

But the students turned on the commissioners. Many categorically
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Who are the Middle Classes?

In history in more cases than one, the working class struggle is always drawn back by middle class elitist who hijack and suppress workers' movements. Over the past few weeks there has been an immense attack on the middle classes by the workers especially after the formation of M.D.C. The International Socialist Organisation has been accused by the middle classes in MDC and NCA to be behind these attacks instead of promoting unity. As a revolutionary organisation our role is to advance the struggle of the workers and to expose anything that might stand on the way. Below Tafadzwa Choto looks at who are the middle classes and what role they play.

The petite bourgeoisie or middle class is a class that is in between workers and the bourgeoisie (the owners of major capital). It is a very diverse social group composed of the likes of small property owner in urban and rural areas, professionals and the academia. The small property owners in the urban are small commercial traders (businessmen/businesswomen). In rural areas they are the plot owners and own a significant number of cattle. They are usually the master farmers and are members of Zimbabwe Farmers Union.

The professionals are the lawyers, doctors, managers and others who may practice on their own account but on a small scale.

Why are middle classes dangerous?

In the last four years we have witnessed a fight back through massive stayaways and demonstrations against the Zanu-PF, the bosses and their programmes like ESAP. This has made the Zanu-PF government unpopular and no longer capable of guaranteeing stable conditions of accumulation for the capitalists. This has made local and international bosses panic - realising that the situation can get worse and degenerate into a revolutionary situation. To stop this the rich started promoting the politics of class collaboration like so-called social contracts, or broad-based political parties so as to dilute the workers. The agents they have used to achieve this are the middle classes, especially the intellectual ones, active in the so-called civic society.

The middle classes are a contradictory class. Those of them who are small property owners are weak and suppressed by the big international and local capitalists and hence align themselves to the state in order to get business through affirmative action, like black empowerment. Thus sections of these middle classes like Chiyangwa or Peddy Zhandu have flooded into Zanu-PF for economic survival. Even those of them who at one time opposed Zanu-PF politics like Kombayi have been forced back for economic reasons.

The petite bourgeoisie also aligns itself with the bourgeoisie not only for economic reasons but also politically they fear the working classes. They fear workers' revolts because they know that in the end workers would target their business like what happened during the food riots in January 1998 when most of the shops in the townships were looted or destroyed. Because of this they are very hostile to workers and their trade unions (ZCTU) and would do anything to protect their class interest and their inspirations of owning major capital. These small property owners are usually the basis of fascist when they are angry with big capital like what happened with Hitler did in Germany.

The middle class is a vacillating class - if the economy is still booming and the capitalist system still accommodates them the middle classes do not want to associate themselves with workers. But the moment the capitalist system fails to accommodate them some of them esp. the professionals are pulled to the majority side who are usually the workers. Because they don't own any major properties, they therefore can be very radical and demand bourgeoisie democracy. We have witnessed the professional middle class becoming active in politics indirectly through the so-called civil society and the NGO world. Some of them have come out open and have gone into an alliance with the labour movement leading to the formation of MDC.

They might be genuine in their fight against the Zanu-PF dictatorship, but are dangerous because they then seek to limit the struggle by fighting for bourgeois democratic reforms, leaving the bread and butter issues untouched. This is precisely what is happening with the constitutional issue with Tendai Biti *urging that the constitutional reform process is a bourgeois' programme and not a Marxist programme and that MDC be a broad-based party not a workers party.* Who told him workers want it that way and not a Marxist programme or a workers party? They are not prepared to advance the workers struggle as Trotsky said, *"If the situation is ripe enough - proceed to a socialist programme."* They are also the ones who are promoting free market ideas in the MDC.

Limiting the struggle of workers will make workers lose hope in their struggle and see no need of keeping on with the struggles. This is what happened in Kenya 1992 and Moi remained in power. The fight against

political dictatorship was not linked to the class fight against poverty that is brought by capitalism. A look at Brazilian elections in 1994 when the labour backed party Partido Trabalhista led by Lula lost in the elections show us that no matter how unpopular Mugabe has become our victory is not guaranteed as long as we fail to address the bread and butter issues.

Another segment of the middle classes are senior trade union officials, especially the full time ones, who although part of the labour movement, are in their lifestyles and values different from the workers they lead, being closer to the middle classes and bosses' ideas. Such leaders usually also promote bosses' ideas in the labour movement and are opposed to militant class action and socialism.

Because petty bourgeoisie is a vacillating class, they are therefore not true friends of workers. Their need to protect their class interest force them to sell workers when they become radical and unite with big classes to smash them. Also, their gospel of class alliance is very dangerous. In Indonesia 1965, PKI went into an alliance with the nationalist middle class Sukharno and also Allende - in Chile 1973. Thousands of ordinary people who were involved in the struggles were butchered because of these unholy alliances. The middle classes are also too cowardly to challenge the system on their own and cannot sustain activity for a long time and in most cases end up deserting the mass during the period of struggles like what happened in Russia 1905.

The nature of their jobs make middle classes very individualistic, competitive, and divided by petty jealousies and promote tribalism and nepotism. That is why we have seen ZUD coming apart. They are also very opportunistic as we have witnessed with Ben Hlatshwayo, who was a member of NCA and also chaired critical sessions at the National Working People Convention, suddenly abandoning the masses to join the fraudulent Zanu (PF.) - Constitutional Commission.

Progressive middle classes

On the other hand there is a tiny minority usually from the professional middle classes who are radical and identify themselves with working class struggles completely. They are prepared to make sacrifices and openly attack the system and support workers at rallies or demonstrations. Such were the revolutionary socialist leaders like Karl Marx, Engels, Rosa Luxemburg and Lenin who committed class suicide - instead of practicing and becoming big lawyers they opted to become full time revolutionaries.

But these middle classes are not to be fully trusted and left on the forefront of the struggles. They should be constantly be monitored on what they are doing and be criticised as can easily end up selling out the workers' struggle like former Stalinists like Kempton Makumbe and Ben Hlatshwayo who today support the fake Zanu PF Constitutional Commission. Or like the Mensheviks like Martov in Russia or Kautsky (who was nicknamed the Pope of Marxism) but ended up selling the German revolution. Joe Slovo, the leader of South African Communist party did the same thing. Even middle class revolutionaries lack disciplined staying power, and when struggles are low can easily end up abandoning the revolutionary ship like the most of the middle class founders of ISO most of whom have since left. Their critical role is to assist in theoretical development of workers and not necessarily to be their leaders. Workers should therefore create ground for removing them by taking their theory and use it to advance their struggles.

However, ultimately the only way forward is for workers to organise their own independent revolutionary organisations in alliance with peasants, students, the unemployed and the poor against the entire system of capitalism. This must start in the MDC making sure that working people lead the party and that its programme reflects the interests of the working people.

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stated that if they could vote, they would vote a resounding no in the referendum. They questioned why there was a frantic campaign for a yes vote. If the document is good, people would not need to be encouraged to like it.

They attacked the commissioners for not choosing to scale down the presidents powers arguing that Mugabe will stand for elections because he has already served more than two terms in office.

During the meeting students secretly organised and distributed thousands of NCA leaflets denouncing the commissions constitution.

One of the students who spoke to *Socialist Worker* said, "We ambushed them today. The commissioners had a terrible time."

This is the way for those who oppose the bankrupt constitution to organise. The shining example of these students must be copied nationwide by all students, workers and peasants.

Students

STUDENTS at the Harare Polytechnic were given a millenium gift from the Ministry of Education this month. They were told without warning that the fees had risen to \$ 1,735.

Further, the principal, Grey Chivanda, told students that only first years would be given accommodation - for a further \$ 1,140. This amount had to be paid before accommodation could be taken up.

This effectively means that only students from middle and ruling class families can afford education. Working class and peasant students are given less than \$ 1,500 as loans while they pay nearly \$ 2,900.

The ZANU-PF government is taking steps to privatise education and make it the preserve of the rich elite.

The decision to offer only first years accommodation is designed to break the tradition of student activism at college. As a further step in this direction, Chivanda, like the Hill regime at UZ, has banned all public meetings on campus.

Students all over should take action to stop education being privatised and being made unaffordable. The first step is to force the SRCs to organise student anger over the hikes. SHINGA MUDZIDZI SHINGA!!

Clarify Positions of State Forces

I would like to air my views in your newspaper about the political situation in this country. My immediate concern is on the status of our police, the army and the most feared CIO. It seems all these forces belong to Zanu PF.

Readers must bear in mind that there are some who are not Zanu PF but the top brass of these forces are Mugabe's faithfuls. These are concerned members of Zanu PF who are working flat out to divide opposition parties through instructions from Zanu PF.

Mugabe is truly afraid of defeat, that's why he is doing whatever he sees capable of bringing in a divide and rule system. Zanu PF is having sleepless nights because of the threat from the popular MDC, which to me is a government in waiting. The CIO is the leading tool in carrying those dirty activities against MDC. To most Zimbabweans who are concerned about the welfare of this country, I say tighten your belts because it is going to be a bumpy ride to success.

We can't sit on our backs because we are afraid of Zanu PF's tactics. To the MDC leaders and members, let us guard against these short-minded perpetrators. We need a change. Zimbabwe is now in shambles, let's make a change.

Chinja maitiro - maitiro chinja - MDC ndizvo - C. Putsikai

Udzvanyiriri pa Van Leer

I work at Van Leer world wide packaging company. When it comes to workers wages that is where the problem starts. Workers who have been exploited for 30 years earn a wage of only \$700 per week. We have no benefits.

If a worker dies, the company pays \$150 only. No coffin, transport food or sympathy message. Those who survive 35 years of employment get a pension of less than \$30,000.

We have seen it fit to publicise our experiences to everyone because management and bosses are always making their lives better through increases and benefits. Ordinary workers on night shift suffer without transport allowance.

A single worker's budget for the month is transport of \$1,400, rent of \$1,700, electricity and water \$1,000 and food \$3,360. Yet the wage before deductions is \$2,594 per month. Is this person a slave comrades?

In peace, the rich make slaves of the poor. We grow wheat and maize but have no bread or roller meal. We work so hard that we die. We are slaves but they say we are all free. We can hardly afford to send our children to school, buy them enough food, clothes and medicines. Who can live on \$400 a week?

Ordinary people are living in prison. We are failing to do anything in our lives because of the bosses and their puppet government. In companies we are getting meager wages. Basic commodities are now too expensive beyond anyone's reach.

The government failed to adequately fund the public accommodation works programme. The state chiefs looted whatever funds there were. As a result most housing projects are now left incomplete. The government looters have also messed up NOCZIM and now we have to pay higher fuel prices while that send fuel to the DRC.

To the employed, unemployed, school students, parents and youth, this is the most appropriate time for change. In solidarity I say: CHINJA MAITIRO - MAITIRO CHINJA.

where we stand

SOCIALISM

Capitalism is a system of exploitation which generates inequality, crisis and war. Although workers create society's wealth, it is controlled by the ruling class for its own selfish interests.

Socialism can only be built when the working class takes control of social wealth and democratically plans its production and distribution to meet human needs, not private profits. This will eliminate all class divisions in society.

Stalinist countries like China, Cuba and n. Korea, just like the former Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc, are not socialist. They are a variant of capitalism called state capitalism, controlled by the state bureaucracy. We support the struggle of workers against every dictatorial Stalinist ruling class.

SOCIALISM FROM BELOW

The working class, is the most powerful and key class in the struggle for socialism. We stand for the revolutionary alliance of workers with all other oppressed social classes in particular with peasants and the urban poor but under the leadership of the working class.

Socialism can only be attained by the mass self-activity of workers. We place emphasis on all methods of struggle which increase the confidence and unity of workers as class such as strikes and demonstrations.

We support trade unions as essential to the fight for workers' economic and political rights. To make the unions fight for workers' interests, ordinary union members must organise themselves independent of union officials.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

Reforms within the capitalist system cannot put an end to oppression and exploitation. Capitalism must be overthrown through a workers' revolution.

Contrary to what is said by the middle class opposition parties, institutions like parliament, the army, po-

lice and the courts are not neutral things that can just be taken over by workers. They are there to protect the ruling class against workers, peasants and the poor.

Reformists fight for reforms as an end in themselves, whilst we accept reforms only in so far as they increase the confidence of the working class in order to smash the entire capitalist system.

To pave the way to communism, the working class needs a new kind of state - a democratic workers state based on workers' councils and workers' militia.

INTERNATIONALISM

Workers in every country are exploited by capitalism, so the struggle for socialism is global.

We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries and oppose everything that turns the workers of one country against those of another country, such as patriotism and nationalism.

We oppose imperialism and support all genuine national liberation movements. We oppose all immigration controls.

We are internationalists because socialism depends on spreading working class revolutions around the world.

OPPOSITION TO OPPRESSION

Capitalism divided the working class using sexual, tribal, racial and national distinctions. The specially oppressed groups within the working class suffer the most under capitalism.

We oppose the oppression of women, blacks, minority tribes-ethnic groups, and lesbians and gays. We fight for real social, economic and political equality of women including access to safe, free abortion facilities. We call for an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians.

We support the right of all oppressed groups to organise for their own defence. Their liberation is essential to socialist revolution and impossible without it.

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Send your reports to the Editor, P.O. Box 6758, Harare by the 15 of every month or phone or fax to 721762

UDZVANYIRIRI MUMAHOTERA

CRESTA LODGE

WAIVA musu wa 17 November apo pa hotera ye Cresta Lodge mu Harare pakaitwa hearing yeimwe member ye workers committee. Member ye komiti iyi yaipomerwa mhosva yekumisa meeting yainge yadaidzirwa kuda kugadzirisa nyaya yeumwe maneja mutsva ainetsa zvekuti kana mwari haifara.

Chero zvakadaro mamaneja akangoenderera mberi nekuita hearing vakati member ye komiti iyi yainge yadzingwa basa. Apa ndipopakamuka hondo yainge isati yamboonekwa pabasa apa. Vashandi takaungana pa lunch tikaudzwa mutongo uyu, isu tikaona kuti mu code of conduct yedu hamuna zvakadaro.

Saka takaona zvakakodzera kumisa komiti yose basa sezvo manejimendi yayinge yavakuita basa rekomiti pachayo. Takaita izvi zve nekuti pane dzimwe nyaya dzaizotongwa svondo raitevera, saka zvaizoreva kuti mabasa evanhu aipera.

Musi wa 18, Group Personnel Manager akauya akaudzwa kunyunyuta kwevanhu. Murume uyu akaudzwa twakawanda, twainge twamutsva nekudzvingwa basa kwemurume uyu.

Nyaya iyi yakatora 2 weeks ichiferefetwa ne head office zvekuti maneja akanzwa nekuenda ku head office kundobvunzurudzwa.

Pedzevo mutongo wake wekudzvinga mushandi basa waka dzimwa zvikanzi murume uyu atongwe patsva. Asi izvi hazvina kumbozoitika, murume uyu akanzi adzoke kubasa musu was 29, izvo zvakafadza vashandi vese.

Shinga Mushandi Shinga

Mushandi wepa Cresta Lodge Akapisa Musoro.

Quality International Hotel inobaya vashandi

MA BHOSI E Quality International Hotel mu Harare akamisa basa umwe mutungamiri we vashandi basa kupera kwe gore rapera nenyaya isina maturo.

Pa pati yakaitwa pakambani apa kupera kwe gore mabhosi akatsvinyira vashandi nekuvapa twu ma bhodhoro twehwahwa twuviri pamunhu. Vashandi vakagunun' a zvakasimba nekutsvinyira uku.

Mabhosi akazopedzera shungu dzavo nekumisa basa umwe mushandi anonzi Joyce Vilika, vachiti ndiye akafurira vamwe. Kuudza vashandi kodzero yavo haisi mhosva. Chokwadi ndechekuti mabhosi ariku victimise Vilika nekuti ndiye umwe wevashandi vakasimba pakambani apa, uyezve ari nhengo yakasimba mu trade union, ZCTU ne MDC.

Nzira yekumisa matakanyanya aya hunge vamwe vashandi vepa Quality Hotel nemamwe ma hotera mu Harare vamira basa nekuratidzira kuti Vilika adzokere kubasa. Uyezve misangano yevashandi se ZCTU ne MDC inofanira kumira kushandisa hotera iyi kusvika Joyce adzokera kubasa.

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

Hondo yevashandi ve ku Standard Chartered Bank avo vakadzingwa mabasa makore mana apfuura zvichitevera kuramwa mabasa kunyunyuta hwudzvanyiriri hwepa kambani apa. Dare re Labour Tribunal rakatonga kuti vashandi vadzororwe kumabasa kana kupuhwa mari asi, mabhosi eko arikuramba izvi vakakwidza nyaya zvakare kudare re Supreme Court.

Ma bhosi aya aneutsinye hukuru. Parizvino vashandi vana vashayika kubva pakatanga nyaya iyi pamusana penzara kana kushaya hutano hwakakwana.

Asi vashandi vakazvipira kuramba vachienderera mberi. Shingai vashandi. Vamwe vashandi ve mu industry yema bhongi vanokurudzirwa kutsigira vashandi ava neru batsiro rwe mari ne kuratidzira in solidarity.

VaTsvangirai Shingai

Ndakafara chose kuona mapepa enyu amakanamira panzvimbob dzakasiyana siyana dze mu industry. Pamberi nebasa renyu iri rakanaka zvikuvarume. Hatidi zvachose kudyiwa takasvinura sematema.

Rambai makashinga "Mr Tsvangirai!" Mufunge zvenyu vanhu vazhinji vari kukutsigira zvikuvarume. Uyezve vanhu vakawanda havasi kuda zve "3 % AIDS Levy, kana neniwo munyori wetsamba iyi ndakotozvimbirwa neshungu pamusana peudzvinyiriri huri kuitwa na Mugabe ne Cabinet yake.

Vakomana toita sei kuti munhu uyu abve pachigaro? Kutomubvisa pachigaro ndiko chete kunoita kuti nyika ino igadzikane. Isu tingafa nenzara pamusoro pe DRC here? Tinowanei isu pazviri. Pafungei kuti 3 % ye \$2 000 per month i \$60 - 00 ichingoenda mahara here. Zano randinokupai nderekuti paitwe ma 'rallies' mudhorobha nekuma ruwa akawanda muchidzidzisa vanhu pamusoro pouipi hunoitwa ne hurumende ya Mugabe kuti vanhu vapepuka kubva muhope dzavari.

Chechipiri ndechekuti imi se MDC ne ZCTU itai kuti muve nemasimba pachenyu pazvima, kuti mukwanisezve kuitisa 'ma strikes nema stayaways', pasina kubhanwa na Mugabe. Hazviiti here nhai va Tsvangirai? Nekuti national strike or stayaway ndiyo chete nzira inoita kubvisa zve 3 % AIDS Levy, nekuti mushandi akarega chete kuenda kubasa hapana kunozobva 3% iyi. Ndiyo chete nzira Mr Tsvangirai inokaurisa Mugabe.

Fanika zviri kuitwa nema Doctors izvi iye ari kusapota DRC vanhu vachifapa pazvipatara semakonzo kudai. Mugabe sei achingoenda iye kune dzimwe nyika vana Muzenda vasingamboendewo? Anongoda chete zvemafaro ake iye nemukadzi wake achimuratidza mahotera akasiyana siyana. Anoitwa nyanzvi yokunogadzirisa ma problems edzimwe nyika asi kuno tichifa.

Vakomana batanai nemapato ose anopikisa emuno mu Zimbabwe, muise musoro pamwe musunungure nyika, yava kuenda kumawere iyi. Nyorerai tsamba kunana Muzorewa, Tekere, Dongo nedzimwe nyanzvi dzeku South Africa kuti mugare pamwe chete muronge kurwira ma strong rights ekuti vashandi vaitewo ma strikes nema stayaways. Hatifanirwi kudzviviswa mhani kurwira kodzero dzedu sevashandi isu!

Musasiyezve kukurukura nevashandirwi vedu, kuti vabvumire vashandi vavo kuti vaite ma stayaway vachozobhadharwa mazuva ose, uyezve kutivarege kuvadzinga mabasa. Pasi ne TAX!

Ndini Rombe re Zimbabwe - Harare

Workers in Struggle

Chero hazvo hurumende irikuti yakabvisa mutemo uno bhena ma stayawa, panevashandi vazhinji vachirikutambura nemutemo uyu. Vamwe vacho ndeavo vanotevera.

Vashandi vanodarika 100 vekambani ye Tandem Industries mu Harare vakadzingwa basa ne mabhosi avo vachitivedzera chimutemo cha Mugabe chema stayaway muna May 1999 zvichitevera kunyuyuta kwavaita nekusapuhwa 20 % cost of living adjustment ye ZCTU. Nanhasi vashandi ava vachakadzingwa basa nyaya yavo iri ku labour.

Willowvale Motor Industries

Kuwo kwakadzingwa vashandi vanodarika 58 muna May zvakare mabhosi achishandisa kamutemo ka Mugabe aka. Nanhasi nyaya iyi ichiri ku Labou. Ku PTC vashandi vanodarika 200 vakadzingwa basa ne mutemo. Dare rema bhosi re Supreme Court rakakanda nyaya yavo kudivi pasina kana kumboongorora ka mutemo aka.

Socialist Worker

VOTE NO
X

15 Reasons To Vote No!

Chidyausiku's Constitution:

- Was written by Zanu PF, the rich, bosses and the middle classes.
- Gives Mugabe power to dissolve parliament, declare wars etc.
- Makes Mugabe above the law and power to pardon his criminal friends.
- Allows Mugabe to appoint a big cabinet and retains governors.
- Allows Mugabe to appoint his people like Mudede to run elections.
- Does not place an age limit on when the president should retire.
- Refuses full Proportional Representation for elections.
- Creates a Senate which is undemocratic and a puppet of Mugabe.
- Creates a Senate that discriminates against those below 40 years.
- Creates a Senate to attack workers, students, peasants and the poor.
- Does not give peasants land and supports the death penalty.
- Does not provide for rights to jobs, housing, health, and education.
- Does not provide for the rights to strike and fair labour standards.
- Supports the oppression of women and other oppressed groups.
- The Constitution will keep Mugabe, Zanu PF & ESAP in power!NCA

Join the March to Say NO! On 5 February 2000
From Rotten Row to Causeway Post Office -
at 9.00 a.m. - Everyone welcome!

Tax the Rich & Bosses to Fund the Poor
Register to Vote!

STOP PRESS Utopia Farm Workers in Court on 22 February

VASHANDIveku Utopia Farm avo vakadzvingwa basa zvisina maturo gore rapfuura varikuenda kudare musi wa 22 February mu Harare.

Mabhosi ekambani iyi arikuomesa musoro, vachiramba kudzorera vashandi kubasa chero hazvo zviri pachena kuti vakanganisa zvinotaridzwa netwumari twavaida kupa vashandi kuti nyaya ipere. Parizvino vakatobvisa gweta ravo rekutanga, vava kumirirwa nerimwe, Brian Kagoro we ku Kantor & Immerman.

Chero hazvo zvinhu zvaoma kusanganisa kushaya kwechikafu nemari uye kupiswa kwakaitwa twumusasa twavari kugara pedyo ne road, vashandi ve Utopia Farm vakachashinga nekuti vano ziva kuti hondo yavo i hondo yekurwira kodzero dzevashandi ve Zimbabwe pausvetasimba. Tsigirai vashandi ava nekuuya re Tribunal na 9.00 a.m.