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AFRICAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC UNION
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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**THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS AND LANDLESS PEASANTS
SHALL BE PARAMOUNT !**

THE 2001/2002 BUDGET

After all the obligatory handshaking and praise for the 2001/2 budget by bourgeois economists, the economic prospects for millions of workers, unemployed and rural dwellers remain bleak. The finance minister, with the able assistance of the bourgeois press wanted to create the impression that the poor majority will indeed benefit from this grandiose bookkeeping exercise.

But what is the reality of the situation? Cosatu has been complaining bitterly about its exclusion from the budgeting procedures. It has also dismissed the R600 million set aside as a tax incentive for companies to create jobs and provide training, as wholly inadequate. The Campaign for a People's Budget has held demonstrations agitating against the continued and increasing exclusion of the poor from the wealth of the country. Close to 65% of the proceeds from privatisation over the past four years have gone into the repayment of state debt. The government intends raising close to 18 billion rand from further privatisation of state assets.

The matter of underspending of budget allocations in a number of government departments hit the headlines not so long ago. The spending of billions of rand on the purchasing of weapons is a more recent widely discussed issue pointing towards wastage and totally skewed spending priorities. This and other matters as raised in previous editions of The APDUSAN paints a picture of wilful disregard for the interests of the working class and landless peasantry. And in the mean time people are starving and dying in the rural areas and urban slums from preventable diseases.

Clearly, with such a track record of catering to the needs and interests of the capitalist class and their allies, the poor and exploited need to start asking serious questions regarding what the future holds. The finance minister and his colleagues are learning the art of bourgeois political trickery - where they pretend to be everything to all people. On the one hand making a big issue of "increased social expenditure" but on the other continuing the

program of privatisation of social services. And we all know what this program entails.

The question that needs to be asked is whether we are going to be sitting around till the time of the next budget to become convinced that we as the working class and landless peasants need to build and strengthen our organisations to fight this fierce onslaught of the ruling class.

THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET CAMPAIGN

On the 2nd of February 2001 the People's Budget Campaign (PBC), an initiative of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the South African National NGO Council (Sangoco) and the South African Council of Churches invited civic society organisations to a gathering to explore ways of taking forward the struggle for poverty eradication. About 29 or more organisations were represented. The Anti-Privatisation Forum (APF Gauteng) was one of them and made the following input:

"What we are about here is only one facet of the entire whole. The budget is but one instrument that is determined by the entire problem that we are faced with, namely the GEAR policy of the government. The other instrument, out of many, is one that has given birth to the APF itself, viz privatisation. This means: job losses, electricity cut offs, evictions, high bills and rentals etc. Imagine the privatisation of ordinary water coinciding with the cholera epidemic - eg KZN and Alexandra.

These instruments form part of a global outlook that goes with the name of "Globalisation". Imperialism, in pursuit of "markets" or profiteering, has decided to invade what was previously the untouchable sector belonging to the government ie education, health, etc.

Therefore in addressing this issue of budgeting we must understand that it is an issue that ends not within the South Africa boundary but is part of the world-wide framework that is shaped by Imperialism through the IMF and the World Bank.

Mobilisation is the only way out. A campaign that does not end here in these fancy rooms but in the dirty streets of the townships, explaining to the ordinary man and woman how their misery is part of a conspiracy by capital both local and foreign. We also invite all these organisations to participate in the APF activities". ●

CHOLERA AND WATER CHARGES

The cholera epidemic ravaging KwaZulu-Natal and spreading inexorably to other parts of the country, Mpumalanga, Northern Province and Gauteng, highlights the failure of the government to provide clean water and proper sanitation facilities for millions of its poverty-stricken citizens. The prevention of cholera depends on an adequate supply of safe drinking water, the hygienic disposal of human faeces and adequate food hygiene. Where these policies have been adopted in the rich industrialised countries in Europe, North America and Japan, the disease, for all practical purposes has been eliminated. However, in the poor countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa, where these measures are not in place, cholera remains a scourge.

With over 63 000 cases and 133 deaths reported by 5 February in KwaZulu-Natal alone since the outbreak of the disease in mid-August last year, and with over 500 new infections each day, there is no end in sight to the epidemic. This outbreak is the biggest in South Africa since the early 1980's and it is unlikely to be contained before winter at the earliest.

According to Kwazulu-Natal's Health department spokesman, Dave McGlew, at least a million people in the province have no access to running water and adequate sanitation. The Health Systems Trust, a large non-governmental organisation specialising in health issues among the poor, says that about 80% of South Africa's poor people have no piped water and even more do not

have flush toilets. With the widespread lack of clean water and proper sanitation, one would have expected the government to institute policies to try to remedy this serious situation. However, one of its policies, instead of relieving the situation has made it worse, as outlined by Ebrahim Asmal in the Sunday Independent of 21/01/01. He drew attention to the fact that one of the first cholera cases occurred outside Empangeni which since 1994, receives water from the Mhlathuze Water Board. However, in August last year, just before the first cholera case was reported, Thokoza Khumalo, the assistant Town Treasurer of Empangeni disclosed that the standpipes which deliver the water had been equipped with pre-paid water meters and soon thereafter "the level of water usage from these pipes dropped".

Instead of changing its indefensible policies of charging poor communities for water and privatising water services instead, the government tries to justify these policies. Thus Mike Muller, Director General of the Department of Water Affairs, in attacking Asmal's article, quoted Ronnie Kasrils, minister of Water Affairs having been told by residents and local councillors in the Empangeni area "that the requirement to pay for water services was not related to the outbreak of the disease". Does Mike Muller really believe that the public are so naïve to accept the denial of this link by Ronnie Kasrils and unnamed officials who do not provide a shred of evidence to refute the link? ●

WORDS AND DEEDS

President Thabo Mbeki recently attended and addressed a meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. He soundly criticised the processes of economic globalisation which only benefit the rich industrialised nations at the expense of the millions of poor people in the underdeveloped countries (more correctly, the neo-liberalist economic agenda, which mostly benefits the rich multi-national business corporations that are based in the more highly developed countries, and not the workers there). President Mbeki went on to call on these rich nations, and their agencies such as the World Trade Organisation, to do more to open up their own markets to the poorer nations, to grant them more debt relief and more investments and development aid.

All of this sounds fine but here in South Africa Mbeki's ANC-led government does everything to promote the very inequalities that he complained of at Davos. It has adopted and implemented the neo-liberalist economic agenda via its GEAR policy. Its programme for the privatisation of public resources (selling them off to foreign international companies) results in job losses and the exploitation of the people who must pay more for essential services to ensure these businesses fat profits. It has lifted trade tariffs which has devastated the local clothing and textile industry, throwing thousands out of work, in favour of those multi-national business

corporations who can now sell goods for big profits in South Africa which have been manufactured more cheaply by the use of slave sweatshop labour in south-east Asia. It has lifted restrictions on the flow of finance capital, opening up the country to speculative raids by foreign financial gamblers who have stripped it of billions of rands in wealth. It has shunned worker rights and lowered company taxes to attract foreign investment which nevertheless has not come.

The ANC tries to tell us that it is best to follow this course. We disagree. Instead of privatisation, the government could institute a programme of more nationalisation, with a public works programme to build the millions of houses that are needed, creating jobs for thousands of unemployed whose earnings could then stimulate more local industry and the creation of even more jobs. It could give land to all of the landless instead of to just a few "get rich quick", would-be black bosses. It could raise taxes on the growing massive profits of big businesses who have simply sucked up their extra benefits without investing more in South Africa and who have chucked more people out of work rather than creating more jobs. But instead of facing up to the needs of the poor majority, Mbeki and the ANC prefer to hold out the begging bowl to the imperialist powers for greater benefits and security for the rich and the greedy who wish for a share of the spoils here in South Africa. ●

APDUSA

APDUSA was established in 1961 by the Unity Movement of South Africa (UMSA) to raise the interests of the working class and landless peasantry as paramount in the national liberatory struggle. Despite the gain of political rights for all, the compromise of 1992 has not fulfilled the national democratic aspirations of the labouring majority and they continue to suffer in conditions of abject poverty and subjugation to the will of the rich who command the economic resources of the country. We have therefore adopted a programme of transitional demands for the completion of the unfinished tasks of the bourgeois democratic revolution in an uninterrupted struggle for socialism.

APDUSA calls for the self-organisation and united independent struggle of the labouring masses. We further believe that the struggle can only advance decisively via the greatest ideological and organisational unity between the workers in the urban centres and the peasants in the rural areas under the leadership of the working class

We demand:

- The convening of a democratically elected Constituent Assembly, charged with the task of drawing up a new constitution, governed by the interests of the oppressed and exploited working class and peasantry, based on the demand for full, unfettered political rights for all with majority rule in a unitary state, the removal of all artificially created regional political boundaries, the liquidation of all special minority rights and privileges which militate against the interests of the majority. The Constituent Assembly must have full powers to discharge these duties, untrammelled by any directions and constraints designed to serve self-interested minorities.
- A resolution of the land question in accordance with the needs of those who work and live off the land. This means the destruction of all existing tribal and feudal relations in the rural areas and the nationalisation of the land, without compensation. A new division of the land and its management, which excludes forced collectivisation, the payment of rent and the expropriation of small peasant farmers, must be undertaken by committees that are democratically elected by and answerable to the people.
- The expropriation of all major industries, banks and institutions of credit and their management by the state and representatives of the workers in the interests of the population as a whole.
- The revision of labour legislation for the liquidation of all discrimination against the worker. This also means:
- The right to work, which must be implemented both via the institution of necessary adjustments to the length of the working week to provide employment for all, without a reduction in wages, as well as by the institution of a progressive public works program with the full representation of the unemployed in its management.
- The fixing of a living minimum wage as well as a sliding scale to compensate for any price increases.
- The unconditional right to strike which includes the right of occupation of the workplace.
- The elected representatives of the people, at organisational level or in the local, regional or national political institutions of state, must be fully accountable to those who elect them and they must be fully bound by the demands and aspirations of the working class and its allies, the landless peasantry.

The democratic demands and aspirations of the oppressed workers and peasants shall be paramount

INGXAKI KUKULAWULA IKOYI ENGASIYIYO EYAKHO

Ikoyi nguvimba ekugcinwa kuyo sonke isivuno, ingaba ngumbona, amazimba, imbotyi nokubayingqolowa; ekuthi kubekho umntu apha ekhaya oza kuyilawula ukuze ithabathe ixesha elide ukondla usapho olu. Injongo yesi senzo kukukhusela usapho endlaleni enokuthi ibangelwe ziimbalela ezinje ngokunqaba kweemvula kuze kunga binakho ukulimeka komhlaba; maxa wambi imvula inethe kakhulu zide zonakale izityalo kunga fumaneki sivuno ke ngolohlobo. Lo vimba ke mandulo ebeba zizisele apho esi sivuno besivalelwa khona ukuze singonakali; be kumana ukudinjazula ke kwezizisele ngo kwemfuneko yekhaya elo ngoko lawulo olujonge uqoqosho oluqinileyo. Esi sivuno besigcinakala sikhuseleke kwezizisele ezenziwe ngobuchule nobunono obukhulu ukuze singanakaliswa ziimvula nazingqokoqhwane namavivingane azintshaba kuso. Kule mihla sesivalelwa ematankini kuze kuthengwe amayeza ezi zinambuzane sezixeliwe ngentla; konke oku kwenziwa ngulowo olawula lo vimba ekwenza oku kwikoyi yakhe elungiswe nguye ngokubila kunye namandla akhe.

Ma sikhe sijonge ke lo Rulumente ulawulayo ukuba ngaba lo vimba amlawulayo ngowakhe emnyama. Lo mntwana ulindele ukubana asombulule lamaqhina eMathematics esonjululwa ngula mntwana useSea Point High School. Kwezo meko zezulu abanye bafundela phandle phantsi kwemithi; abazali babantwana bahlawula iirafu ezifanayo, "hayi ilishwa lamaphandle".

Okona kubulala intliziyo, ezona voti zininzi zezi zasemaphandleni, kusakube kwenzekile oku, onke lo maqabane onyuliweyo athi qelele oku kwethamsanqa into ebonakalayo kukondleka kwanw; athi omnye umgqibele engumtya webhokhwe udibane naye sele kunzima nokuhamba yile mali yaba rafi. Ukutyikila ityuwa enxebeni bagqutsube betala ngoba baweziwe. Kuzo zonke ke iindawo ezizinkonzo lamagosa awakujongi nasebusweni sele ubuza ingcaciso, athi hamba ujikele ngapha ubuze enga mjonganga, kanti omye ngumutu amaziyo.

Uya kudana xa exelelwa ngenye imini. mawethu iBuya-MBO; zonke ezi meko zimpembelelo zobungxowa-nkulu apho iqaqobana lilawula bonke ubutyebi belilizwe. Ma sihlngane phantsi kwezi - bambathiso ezijongise ukubhukuqa ubungxowa-nkulu obusizisela bonke ubunzima obusitya imihla nezolo. Inkululeko yethu ayinakho ukuvela KubuNgxowa-nkulu koko iya kuvela kuthi simanyene amaphandle needolophu, lulapho uloyiso lwethu. ●



From Around the World

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

The World Social Forum (WSF), held during the last week of January 2001 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, came at an important moment in mounting anti-imperialist struggles. At least 16 000 participants from about 120 countries engaged in the workshops and other activities at the WSF. Around 1000 organisations were represented, ranging from NGOs to trade unions to leftwing political parties, including COSATU and AIDC from South Africa. The entire WSF agenda pivoted around 4 themes broken into topics with a direct anti-capitalist focus. Missing however were clear organisational alternatives to take ongoing protests forward.

Through solidarity messages the WSF activists united with demonstrators attempting to shutdown the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) of global capital in Davos. In a live televised debate between the WSF and WEF, the WSF raised its profile and anti-neo-liberal message. George Soros, billionaire speculator who represented his fellow capitalists at Davos in this debate fared poorly. But the WEF had many other problems to agonize over: global economic chaos resulting from the sharp fall in the American economy, the umpteenth poverty report by a bourgeois institution exposing the failure of capitalism, etc. The subsequent one-week tour of Africa by the World Bank-IMF big shots can be regarded as a feeble reaction by imperialism to stay in charge.

Finally, a note on Porto Alegre, the WSF venue. In his essay, 'A "Red" Government in the South of Brazil', M Löwy, gave an outline of how socialists run the municipality of Porto Alegre in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. (*Monthly Review*, November 2000, pp16-20) Working class militants everywhere could draw lessons from evaluating this experience, especially regarding (a) the electoral tactic and (b) the "participatory budget" whereby the population is mobilized to formulate fiscal priorities for social services. ●

THE LANDLESS MOVEMENT IN BRAZIL

One of the most militant participants in the recent World Social Forum in Brazil was the Landless Workers Movement, better known as the MST (Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra). In their determination to end poverty, these landless peasants targeted one visible destroyer of their livelihood - MONSANTO. Monsanto is an American agri-business multinational spreading its agri-chemicals worldwide – legally protected by the WTO - and these "biotechnologies" openly devastate the peasants' means to existence. Hence about 1000 MST comrades invaded a Monsanto plant near Porto Alegre on the 26 January and uprooted 2 hectares of genetically modified (GM) soybean crops.

To fully grasp the MST's militancy to realize their agrarian platform it is crucial to examine the realities that face about 25 million landless peasants in Brazil. The richest 20% of Brazilians own 90% of the land, while the poorest 40% of the population own only 1%. Two-thirds of Brazil's arable farmland is concentrated in the hands of less than 3% of rich people. From 1985 to 1996 these disproportional concentration tendencies grew most severe. Land under cultivation fell by 5% in the last 10 years dumping at least 5.5 million into a rural jobless pool. Larger agricultural estates exploit 2.5 million seasonal landless toilers. In addition, while 60% of Brazil's farmland lies idle, approximately 100 000 families live in plastic shanties along roadsides and on unproductive land.

Last year, the MST's fight to end land hunger reached new heights despite the brutal crackdown from Brazil's President Cardoso and big landowners. President Cardoso established a special police force to deal with land occupations and estate owners have taken up guns as well. The MST, born in 1984 and currently representing over 300 000 families, has a platform demanding more land plus easy credit for farming and other social needs. In one week early in May last year, the MST took over land in 22 of Brazil's 26 states! Also, in its campaign for affordable credit, following occupations of Central Bank offices, the MST forced the Cardoso government into a national agreement on this demand in October last year. It is indeed inspiring to see that every victory strengthens the MST in size and deepen its programme to uproot poverty in the countryside. ●

THE WORLD AND USA'S ECONOMIC GLOOM

Shortly after Alan Greenspan's (head of the US Federal Reserve) emergency intervention in financial markets the chief economist at a big Wall Street firm pronounced that the American economy was already in a recession. Fed. Chief Greenspan, envied by central bankers the world over, attempted to postpone a "hard landing" through an interest rate cut. The last time he manoeuvred this monetary policy lever was when the 1997-1999 crisis threatened to engulf the US. Most indicators show that the generalised overproduction in the "new economy" has given way to slumping profits, widespread bankruptcies and production cutbacks over the last six months. The speculative bubble pivoting on the high-tech sector has imploded. Since October of last year corporations outside the tech-media-communications sector, heavily dependent on junk bonds, went belly-up. As investment grade bonds also became downgraded Wall Street went into a free fall. (*Financial Times*, 19 Oct & 12 Dec.2000). Large banks, cringing under sour loans on their books, were becoming victims of their reckless lending in pursuit of profits. So excessive has debt grown that a corporate squeeze is on Greenspan for another interest rate cut.

But this monetary policy tool to engineer a "soft landing" in the US has a global impact. Stock and currency markets across the world slid into volatility as America's economic gloom spread. In this we see a confluence of ➡

➡ world economic integration with domestic troubles in other countries. Among the major imperialist rivals - Japan, the US and Europe - the relation between their currencies (yen, dollar and euro) adjusted to the new direction in capital flows. (*Financial Times*, 24 Oct.2000). Europe's (and the euro's) "sparkling health" is mainly due to it's capitalists relocating portions of their funds away from the US, triggering a dollar depreciation with only negative consequences for the US current account deficit. No doubt, judging from the infighting at the last EU-Summit in France, the EU can only temporarily hide its own vulnerabilities behind the US gloom. In Japan, ten years of stimulus packages produced massive corporate and public debt, countless bankruptcies and a banking sector on the verge of a meltdown, coupled with political instability. In the second largest economy in the world government debt stands at 120% of GDP and the yen has weakened! (*The Economist*, 20/01/01, p74).

What about the third world? Latin America and East-

Asia especially, already received some hard blows from the wild swings in world markets. (*The Economist* 9/12/2000, pp 77-79; *Business Week* 31/07/2000) Unable to overcome the wreckage from the 1997 "Asian-contagion", they would not withstand the knock-on effects from an "American-contagion". To see why, consider two facts: Latin America's debt-export ratio is twice as high as that of Asia and both face battering by foreign currency creditors. "And although many Asian economies' exports are to each other", wrote *The Economist* about the second fact, "much of the intra-regional trade goes into supply chains that are ultimately feeding demand from America and Europe." (16/12/2000, p86). Argentina, for instance, victim of this double-edged sword (debt & export market glut), is propped-up by an IMF-emergency package. Elsewhere, like in Thailand and the Philippines, capitalist crises brought poor people into resistance, opening a precarious political set-up with petit bourgeois opportunists at the head. ●

THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE - THE CRISIS DEEPENS

The attempts of America to broker a negotiated settlement and peace between Yasser Arafat's PLO and Israel have once again failed and we are witnessing a second Palestinian Intifada in the region.

After seven years of limited "self-rule" in Israeli occupied territories the PLO has been unable to improve the living conditions of the impoverished Palestinians. Indeed, they were only given recognition to act as the policemen of their people in the same way as civil servants and chiefs ran the Bantustans in South Africa. The oppression of the Palestinians resulted in uprisings on a regular basis. The latest, which started on the 29th September 2000 resulted in the loss of least 382 lives while more than 10 000 people were injured during these battles. Despite the suffering of the Palestinians, there is no sign that the uprising is going to end.

According to the Socialist Outlook, at the beginning of November 2000, researchers at the Brizeit University conducted a major poll in the occupied territories. 75% of those polled supported the continuation of the Intifada, even though 30% expected it to continue for months, and a further 24% thought it will continue for years. The popular pressure against a sell-out is clear from the fact that 91.5% replied that peace between Palestinians and Israel was impossible without Israeli recognition of the right of

Palestinian refugees to return to their homes.

In the face of rising opposition from the Palestinians Yasser Arafat has been unable to make an acceptable deal with the Israelis. This raised serious problems for the Israeli Prime Minister who lost massive support amongst the Israelis. He resigned his post. This was in order to block Netanyahu who would have beat him in elections according to polls conducted at the time.

The Response of the Israeli people

The election of General Ariel Sharon to power indicates a shift to the right in Israel. This is the same Sharon who has been responsible for many acts of murder, terrorism and Anti-Arab brutality. The left-wing of Israel is still smarting under the death of 13 who were killed in a Pro-Intifada protest rally and they vowed to abstain from the election or spoil their ballot papers.

The new intifada is a likely signal of the total collapse of the peace process pursued by the PLO, Israel and America over the past years. It also signals a new reign of terror against the Palestinians by the Israeli securaucrats. Progressive forces in the Middle East now face a task of building a new leadership for the struggle against imperialism and for a unitary and democratic Palestine, a struggle that is gathering momentum before our eyes. ●

INTLUNGU YABENI ABACINDEZELWEYO BELIWZWE

Sesifikelewe kwiminyaka esixhenxe elilizwe likhululekile phantsi kwentando yesininzi (idemocracy). Kodwa oku kuchazanina kwizigidi zabantu eziphantsi kwengcinezelo? Ingaba ithemba okanye usizi?

Icacile into yokuba ngelixauninzi lwemidaka yakuleli yayisiyakuvota, yayikwenza oku ngenjongo yokumisa urhulumente oyakujongana neemfuno zalo. Lamathemba ayephenjlelwa zizithembiso zogayo ezazisenziwa ngoohlolhesakhe abazinkokeli zeli lizwe. Ezi nkokheli zohlulakele kukuzazulula ingxaki yabantu abahluphekayo. Imilinganiselo ekhulwini igqithisile minyakale eyabantu abangasebenziyo. Abasebenzi banikezelwe kwiingcuka namarhwamnce angoongxowankulu ngebomi ngulo rhulumente. Imithetho ebacinezelayo iyagunyaziswa ngurhulumente ngethemba lokuloba abatyalizimali. Kodwa eyonanto elandelayo kukumka kwemizimveliso

nokuphelelwa kwabantu yimisebenzi njengesiganeko sase freeplay ekapa. Apha le khampani ibisebenza ngokwenza amandla oonomathotholo. Kodwa abaphathi babone ukuba.baluvale ushishino bayekulivula eChayina. Isizathu kukuba apha echayina ixabiso labasebenzi liphantsi. Ke oku kubeke abasebenzi base Freeplay elusizini.

Kukokonke oku uRhulumente uyibeka le ngxaki kwidabi labasebenzi elihlangeneyo (organised labour). Uthi, abasebenzi mabayeke ukungxola, beveza izikhalo zabo, ngoba oku kuchitha amathuba otyalo zimali. Abasebenzi bahluthwa amalungelo abawalwelwe kabuhlungu yile nqubo. Uhlasele luza nkalo zonke. Urhulumente ngapha uthengisa imizimveliso kwiinkonzo zabucala, ngapha oongxowankulu banciphisa amathuba emisebenzi bawavulela abobexeshana (subcontracting and casualisation). Ababanikazi ➡

➔ bamakhampani abanasazela ukubonisa uluntu elubala ukuba inkqubo yezemithetho iphantsi kolawulo lwabo, njengokuba benzile etinarha kwavolkswagen ukuphikisa isigqibo se CCMA ekubuyiseleni abasebenzi abangama-

waka anamakhulu amathathu (1300 workers). Kucacile ukuba abasebenzi kufuneka ukuba bazimele ukuze bakwazi ukujongana notshaba lwabo emehlweni. ●

ULUNTU ALUKAHLONITSHWA KUNANAMHLA

Amazinyo zinyanda, emva kokuba sasinethemba lwentlalo engcono, kodwa kha uthathe nje inqwelo mafutha yakho uye kubukela mhla kwamkelwayo ubone amaxhego namaxhewukazi eluthuzeliziswa, ebhekiswa ngapha nangapha ngalamagosa amkelisayo. Apho kunikwa umyalelo wokuba abantu abathile mabaye edolophini ukuya kuzijonga ukuthi baphumile na ukuba bafumane ipension ebizwa ngamagama anje nge NKAM-NKAM, INDODLA, INTSHOLOMQA OKANYE USITSHINGA. Kanye lamagama aya hlekisa asisithuko kule pension ifunyanwa ngabantu; xa befika edolophini apho behambe ngemali zemboleko, baxelelwa ukuba bekunga funwa bona kuxelwe enye into benga zukubuyiselwa nezo mali bebehambe ngazo. Kuyinto eqhelekileyo ukujuba komntu asweleke kulo mikrozo kwelo langa okanye kwezo mvula kwanazo neengqele; kaloku aba bantu abondlekanga zaye izifo ezosulelayo nezo zixhaphakileyo apha emaphandleni.

Uye ezikolweni ngamabhodlo izakhiwo zezodaka, ifestile zife zonke umoya ingqele zonke iimeko zezulu ziya zenzela kulo mizinjana engondlekanga. Isidlo sakusasa (breakfast) lulonwabo (luxury) uninzi luya esikolweni imilomo yomile okanye elumele umphokoqo ngekofu kwaye emnonophele kangako unina. Xa sivotela u Rulumente kube sinenjongo zokuba asinike iinkonzo ezinga mabango ethu; azeke yena abe ngumbhobho wokuhambisa la mabango. Siyazi ukuba ezinkonzo ziya hlalulelwa kungoko siyihlawula irafu yethu ngaphandle kokukhalaza; xa sakha lo vimba we rafu ngokwethu sizama ukuqinisa kuthi roqo ukumpompoza kweenkonzo ukuza eluntwini. Xa sithetha ngeenkonzo eziza eluntwini sithetha ngabantu bo(m)Zantsi-Afrika befana ngokulinganaye ngeziya rafu zihlawulwa ngokufanayo ngnmntu wonke welilizwe. Nangona abanye bethu benga khange bawubone umnyango wendlu yesikolo, siya kubona okuqhubeka kwizikolo ezifunda abantwana bethu naba zukulwana nezizukulwana; kuyothusa kuhambisa umzimba. Iminyaka mithandathu sifake abantu abathandwe sithi ebuRulumenteni, kodwa ndisathi ngoratya xa ndincokola nomzukulwana wam ndive esithi "tat'omkhulu ndikubonile ngokuya ubuqabele uRafani unxibe idyasi yakho emnyama udlula phaya ngasesikolweni sethu". Into yo kuqala efike kum engqondweni ibe yeyokuba, " ngaba olu sana lwam le mveku iminyaka elithoba ubudala ibe ikwela qela belifundela phandle eCaleni kwendlu kula moya ube ubanda kangaka?" ndiye ndafane ndahleka intsini menyo, kuba ndinga fundanga nje lo mbuzo wawuzama ukubuza kum ukuba ndiya yibona na le meko bafunda phantsi kwayo kwesiya sikolo sabo. Le mveku ibe inenyangana ezine ifunda kwesi sikolo ivela eRhawutini kwizikolo

ezine zinto zokwenza shushu amagumbi okufundela; ngamanye amazwi uyabuza ukuthi ngabayena ungummi weli lizwe na? ukuba kunjalo kutheni imeko zalapha emaphandleni zinga fani nje neziya zaphaya eRhawutini.

Akuphelelanga apho kukho uhlobo lomhlala phantsi (special pension) okwa gqitywa ukuba izuzwe ngabo bonke abantu abathothoza ezintolongweni belwela inkululeko (political prisoners); oku kwenziwa umthetho, wagqitywa ukuba usebenze. Bayifumana bonke abantu bemibutho yonke yom Zantsi Afrika abasezidolophini, kodwa emaphandleni itha nje gqaba-gqaba uninzi lusagxwalise amehlo; xa ufona ubuza uza kuxalelwa zonke iintsomi ezakha zakho, phofu uve nje ukuba lo uthethaya akazange wasokola kweli dabi lenkululeko. Iyonke ke le meko thina siyibona ilukhetho lokulawula apho abantu beli lizwe banga lawulwayo ngokufanayo; ngoba ababantu basemaphandleni ngabona bayifaneleyo nabawulungeleyo lo mhlalaphantsi, kuba uninzi ngabahlolokazi (widows) abayeni babo babulawa ngamagosa obungxowa-nkulu kwezo nkampu zentshutshiso (torture camps). Uninzi lwaba bantu basemaphandleni bahleli intlalo ehlwempuzekileyo oku uya kwazi uRulumente akumsithelanga uxakekile kukuchitha iRafu zabantu apho singa ziyo thina.

Phofu ndiya bona ukuba lo vimba bamlawulayo asinguwo owabo; zikhona iintambo ezimana ukutsalwa kwenye indawo ekufuneka besoloko behamba ngesingqi salowo ulawula ezi ntambo. Thina zimamhlaba nabasebenzi beli lizwe siyithetha phandle into ethi uRulumente weli lizwe unikwa imiyalelo bubungxowa-nkulu waye ufezekisa iminqweno yabo obunjongo zabo ikukuhlala besenza inzuzo ngamandla ethu. Onke amacebo abo nemizamo abayizamayo kukuqinisa naphakade ukusoloko besenza inzuzo ngaphandle kwelahleko. URulumente usebenzisa uvimba okanye ikoyi yobungxowa-nkulu, bekwenza oku belawulwa oku kwehashe elinenkani elifakwe izikhuselwa ukuze linga jongi ecaleni koko lijonge phambile apho liya khona. Apho ubungxowa-ukulu buphila khona kuphila kanabom ubuhlwempu; lo nto isifundisa ukuba la magama amnandi nale mithetho siyiva ibaliswa koonomathotholo ayisoze isizisele nkululeko koko ise kwaboba bukhoboka bakudala dala nto nje kumana kutshintshwa amagama kuphinde kunyenyiswe isitrophu. Obona bukhoboka busetyenziswayo ngoku luqoqosho (economy); olona sizi lolokuba ngoku nguRulumente lo besimvotele osisingqina-nqina ukuphuhlisa le tyhefu yobung xowa-nkulu; Ma sivule amehlo mawethu konakala. ●

ILISO ELIPHANDLWE NGABOM

Kuphando olwenziwe yiInstitute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) sibona iqela labantu elijonge izinto ngeliso nje eliphandlwe ngabom okanye abantu abanikwe umyalelo othile. Kukho abantu abangabonakalisa ukonela kule meko yelilizwe; ewe xa olu phando belu senzeka kwindawo ezinje ngo Sandton eGauteng, Bishopscourt eNtshona Koloni nezinye ke phaya edolophini eThekwini. Ezi mpendulo kanye singa zifumana kubahlali bezondawo apho le nto ikukwexuthwa (hi-jack) kwemoto iyinto ehlala ihlale yenzeke mhlawumbi emva konyaka. Ubumnandi bekhekhe (cake) busekuyingcamleni uqale uthethe ngento oyaziyo onobungqina ngayo.

Phambi kokuba unjinga-lwazi Valerie Moller aqiniseke ngokuba uninzi lwabantu lunethemba ukuba ubomi obungcono sebukufutshane, ma kakhe athathe umjikelo azibonele amatyotyombe akwezi lokishi zabantu; aze akhe acinge nje ukuba ngaba aba bantu boze bakhelwe njani? Akhe achithe nje impela veki ibenye ehlala kula matyotyombe angcamle nje ubomi obuhlalwa ngabantu kwezi ndawo. Aqhubeke eze apha emaphandleni apho kungekho mhlaba kwabo baphila ngomhlaba, apho, amawaka-waka adudulwa

egxothwa kwiindawo zemisebenzi imigodi nefekitri, neefama nezinye iindawo zemisebenzi acele ukubaliselwa iindlela abahamba kuzo abantu ukuya kwiinkonzo ezinje ngezibhedlela ezidolophini njalo njalo. Oku kwenzeka kuninzi lwabantu, ingasililo elaqaqobana (minority) adlana indlebe nalo kwezi ndawo ahamba kuzo. Uthetha kanye okomutu ohlala eRini ongazange akhe athabathe ukhenketho azokubona le nto ikukuhamba nazima kwabantu.

Abantu abanethemba le mpilo engcono bambalwa kakhulu ngobu bungxowa-nkulu benza uvavanyo (tests) ngabo ukuze kube ngathi izinto ziya jika. Inyani yeyokuba kukude engqinibeni ngomlomo; izigidi zezi zisatywiya yindlala, siya luphikisa olu luvo lwale nzwakazi ingu Valerie Moller siyithabatha nje ngentsomi angase umntu aphume iimpondo xa eyenza emini. Oluluvo lu phuma kubantu basemaphandleni abaphila enzimeni abayaziyo le nto ikukuhlupheka. Phofu kumntu oyaziyo imbali yokuma komhlaba kwelilizwe uya kulungqina uluvo oluphuma kwizima mhlaba zona ziphila kwezi meko. Eyona nto yothusayo kukuba athethe ngowakhe umlomo ukuthi abo bantu bahlala kweza ndawe bezifudula zihlaliwa

ngaba bantu bababiza ngoba ngaBebala kunye namaindiya, bonelisekile kunabo bahlala ezilokishini nasematyotyombeni.

Iintetha ezinje zizo ezonzakalisayo kwabo basentluphekweni; eyona nto ziyibonisayo ngumsantsa omkhulu ophakathi kwabantu nemfundimani eziphila ubomi obahlukileyo kakhulu kunobo buphilwa ngabantu. Saye thina apha phantsi siyibona mhlophe nacacileyo ukuba ezi mfundimani (intellectuals) ziphaya kwindlu yowiso mthetho zenza onke amacebo okukhusela le ntlalo yabo ukuze ingaze iphoncuke. Ukubetha oku kolwimi lwakhe lo mama lumxela gca ukuthi ungowayiphi na inkampu. Sicela abasebenzi kumaziko omsebenzi banga khohliswa ngala magama amnandi aphuma kwaba bakhohlisi; ma kusoloko kucacile ukuba ngubanina utshaba lomsebenzi ingubanina umlingani (ally) kwidabi eliphethweyo phakathi kobungxowan-kulu nomsebenzi. Kukhona ubutshaba be nkulungwane (centuries) phakathi kwezi nkampu. Ma singa vumi nkubethwa ngemfiphindiwe. Eli nqaku liphendula inqaku lomhla 02/06/2000 Ngolwesihlanu le Daily Dispatch; nalo libotshelelwe apho. ●

"KEEP POLITICS OUT OF SCHOOL"

These are the words of the minister of education, reported in Cape Times newspaper on 13/02/01. He was further quoted as saying: "We could find ourselves in a situation where public representatives from different parties could converge on schools to confront each other. Our children deserve better."

These are indeed strange words from a man who is presently presiding over the systematic erosion of the educational rights and access of millions of schoolchildren to a decent education. We have previously commented on the privatisation of education which is being introduced by stealth. Already we find the situation in the Eastern Cape of services to schools such as water, electricity and the like being considered for "outsourcing". This is in line with the trick the educational authorities are playing on communities with them ostensibly taking control of running their schools through governing body structures.

To pretend that schools in South Africa have stood or should stand apart from the broader political struggles waged by communities is, to say the least, ridiculous. Why should students not become aware or actively

participate in issues that affect them directly? Are they now to become unthinking semi-robotic creatures incapable of making an input regarding their own futures? The struggles that parents and relatives of students are waging in organisations such as the APF in Gauteng and a similar forum in Cape Town, against privatisation of state assets should in fact serve as a basis for school communities to become involved in a broader movement to fight and defeat the plans of the government and its partners to impose its GEAR agenda on the population.

Who is to blame for the crisis in education?

At the beginning of every year the entire education system comes under serious public scrutiny by politicians, educationists communities, parents, professionals, academics, student organisations, educator unions, media, policy makers parliamentarians, other educational stakeholders and people with interests in education. However, for some reason this public scrutiny seems to be lacking consistency and continuity.

Continued on page 8

"Keep Politics Out of School"

Continued from page 7

As the first quarter of the year comes to an end it is interesting to note that the educational debates about possible solutions seem to fade away. During the second and third quarters of the year the focus tends to shift to the negotiations for educators' conditions of service and salaries in particular.

When we reach the final quarter of the year, before we know it, the entire country suffers from examination fever - that is for educators, learners, and the entire education bureaucracy. This vicious circle continues on a yearly basis without being questioned or challenged.

According to a report in the Cape Argus of 23/01/01, last year's examination results were hailed as a resounding success and a turning point in the history of education in this country, although only 57.9% of Matric pupils passed the examination nationally, compared with 48.9% the previous year. In the Western Cape 80.6% of pupils passed - according to the provincial minister of education Helen Zille the cycle of poor performances in a number of disadvantaged schools has been broken.

According to the national minister of education, Kader Asmal, the low morale among the teaching force is one of the main contributing factors to the crisis in education. What causes this low morale? Is it not educators' conditions of service, their low salaries, their poor working environment, redeployment and rationalisation, the state's investment in physical rather than human resources, lack of comprehensive professional development programs?

It is clear that these factors are a direct consequence of the government's education programme which falls in line with its GEAR economic policy. The implementation of all new educational policies will not succeed unless educators are well equipped to ensure their success. In some instances educators cannot implement them accordingly or successfully. This is not because they want to sabotage the system, but because they simply do not know that a particular policy exists.

The onus is on the school communities via their respective school governing bodies to make sure that the departments of education, educator unions and the South African Council of Educators (SACE) provide qualitative professional development programmes that will enhance community schools and promote further professional growth among educators.

Letters

Comrades

Recently one of my comrades from the rural areas in the old Transkei visited me in the East London. He was particularly struck by the great number of informal settlements in and around East London. He commented also on the great number of people he met in these shanty towns whom he knew from rural villages in the old Transkei.

His comments highlight the countless problems faced by the landless peasantry in South Africa. Unable to make a living in these dumping grounds, our brothers and sisters are forced to seek a living in the towns. To find work in the Eastern Cape is almost an impossible task. Having no accommodation and no money, they are forced to go and live in these informal settlements. As this process accelerates the shanty towns become more congested; the problems we are faced with here are almost the same as in the rural areas; no work; no food; no water; no health services, and so on. The conditions our people have to live under can only be described as inhuman.

It becomes more inhuman when there is enough wealth in this country for everybody to have a comfortable life; the wealth and profits concentrated in the hands of the owners of a few big companies. It becomes more inhuman when a few of our formerly oppressed brothers are now joining that privileged group. They say that black economic empowerment will solve the problems of our people, but we know the reality of the situation. Overnight, a few black "leaders" like Tokyo Sexwale and Cyril Ramaposa suddenly became multi-millionaire big businessmen and exploiters of the working class. Where did they get those millions of rands to buy the companies that they own when the government tells us that it does not have enough money to see to the needs of the millions suffering in poverty?

It is clear that black economic empowerment is just another lie sold to us by the ANC Government. Many of them are involved in the corruption and theft we hear of everyday. The majority of the people will remain in poverty. Our only solution lies in inviting our brothers and sisters in the towns and rural areas to fight against exploitation. We need to build our organisations in all areas to be in a position where we all decide how to divide the wealth in this country.

Andile



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