

WORKERS
REVOLUTIONARY
PARTY
(WRP)
FOR THE REBUILDING
OF
THE 4TH
INTERNATIONAL

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namab737@gmail.com

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STRUGGLE FOR LAND IS A STRUGGLE FOR REVOLUTION

By Paul Thomas

The Landless Peoples Movement (LPM) brought an estimated 5,000 people together on Saturday, 4 February 2017 to protest the tabling of a Land Bill which is designed to dispossess the Landless by law. On 14 February the LPM plans to deliver a petition to Parliament to demand the withdrawal of the Bill.

The SWAPO regime however is already trying to block the protest march which the LPM is adamant to complete.

The Landless People's Movement Press statement released on 9 February by Landless People's Movement of Namibia: "All the journalists present here. Landless People's Movement activists

Supporters and sympathizers

Landless People's Movement Objectives ours is a genuine Landless People's Movement trying to address among others restorative justice towards Reclaiming the Ancestral Land and correcting historical injustices of the past. Apart from above we also advocate for fair and just land reform which must include agrarian reform.

On notice to demonstrate on 14 February 2017-we reject assertions made yesterday by the secretary of the National Assembly that we merely seek for an appointment to lobby for fired former deputy minister, Bernadus Swartbooi to be reinstated in his former position. This is a complete lie. As a

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NB: Die Werker's price is R5.00 in Namibia and R10.00 in South Africa

VISSERS VERANDER WET MAAR KRY NIE WERK

Die staking van vissermanne sedert 2015 het die regering gedwing om arbeids wetgewing te verander. Die vissers het gestaak oor onder andere lang ure (gemiddeld 21 ure per dag) wat hulle moes werk en gevaarlike werksomstandighede. Die vissermanne het hul stryd internasionaals gerig na verskeie unies en werkers organisasies. Hulle het hul ook gewend na die ILO (International Labour Organisation) waaronder die Namibiese arbeids wette val. In die regerings koerant van 14 Oktober 2016 bepaal die regering dat vissermanne slegs 9 ure per dag mag werk.

Oortyd mag nie meer as 5 ure per dag wees nie. Die ooglopende rede vir die wets verandering is omdat die regering die ILO 'n rat voor oee wil draai. Die feit is dat die werkers nog nie hul werk terug gekry het nie. Die vissermanne sal hul stryd om hul werk terug te kry moet verskerp en met hul program voort gaan beide plaaslik om met ander werkers te verenig en internasionaal.



page

matter of fact we only submitted a notice to the Speaker of Parliament last week to inform them that we shall have a march on 14 February to submit a petition calling for the withdrawal of the land bill pending the hosting of the National land conference. Also the march is to call for the removal of Mr. Utoni Nujoma as Minister of Land Reform. Nujoma does not understand the portfolio and is causing hatred and divisions amongst Namibians. He is issuing threats to people and calling them unpatriotic. He must be fired.

Also we call for the introduction of the Ancestral Land debate in the National Assembly

On 14 February- we call upon all Namibians to join us in their thousands on the 14 February to submit the petition to the Speaker of the National Assembly. We reject acts of intimidation made by certain leaders and assertions cast by Secretary of National Assembly Ms. Kandetu that there shall be a chaos unless she will bring chaos. We demand professor Katjavivi to apologize to the nation for this reasoning by his workers.

Thanks.

Read by Henny Seibeb

The LPM has expressed its concern that the Namibian regime is trying to stoke tribal division and animosity by 'resettling' people from the north on lands from which the people in the south were dispossessed by the colonists, whilst they are denying resettlement to the landless of the south.

The regime is trying to keep in power by fueling tribalism and therefore the LPM will articulate the land issue of the whole working class.

THE CAPITALISTS AND MIDDLE CLASSES HAVE INTEREST IN TRIBALISM AND RACISM

We better look at the issues in Namibia before we use the petit bourgeois method of dealing with serious matters by categorizing them in generalities and homespun morality.

Are the masses of poor Ovambo peasants and workers pursuing tribalism? No! They are fighting for their survival: The fishermen, the TCL miners, the mineworkers, the roadworkers, the workers. Are they trying to steal advantage on other tribes?

No!

The Ovambo workers are fighting for survival with other workers from other nationalities. Are Nama workers trying to steal advantage over others?

No!

Are Herero workers trying to steal advantage?

No!

Where is tribalism relevant? The appointment of tribal members to lucrative positions! The apportioning of the nation's wealth on a tribal basis. This Namibian regime is practising tribalism and subordination to whites.

This has nothing to do with the masses of Ovambo, Damara, Herero, Nama, Baster, Boesman, Tswana, Coloured who live together in the locations and shanty towns and the white working class. The problem with tribalists is that they try to spread their disease to the masses with catastrophic consequences.

We as revolutionaries should fight this scourge with all our might together with the working class.

See the United Front article on Xenophobia on page 5!

Hewat's opinion with regard to Pan-Africanist notion that Africans were stolen for Slavery

Personally I think it is an insult to say that Africans were stolen. By whom? By the Portuguese? By the English? By the European?. I do not think that the Europeans had the power to hunt down Africans in Africa and take them away in large numbers. We have the Masai and the Ovahimba who kill lions. But, lets go straight to history: the Central African Kingdom sold Africans to the slave traders, just like the chiefs of the north sold labourers to the capitalists and farmers down south in Namibia. If the youth wish to join the working class to free Africa, they will have to look the truth squarely in the face. They will have to understand that Africa is being held hostage today, because of a comprador class of governments serving not only the dictators and the interests of imperialism, but kindling and protecting racism. You know that in Namibia if a black man is accused of theft he is summarily arrested unless he is from the small group of imperialist agents. But, when you report a white person for theft he is not locked up. This is not the doing of whites. It is the doing of blacks. So logic dictates that the fight against a white man overseas will not help us much and will not return Africa to Africa. (Namibia is owned by Europe and America because of the black man). There is another thing. The youth in themselves cannot free Africa. Only if they become part of the working class can they be revolutionary. I support the struggle of the youth, but I advise that you look the truth straight in the face and not to pursue old myths, which can only lead us back to slavery.



The sign of the times

WRP BRIEF AAN MINISTER VAN GROND HERVORMING STUIT WETSONWERP

President Geingob het die Grond Wetsontwerp terug-getrek wat Utoni Nujoma vinnig deur die Nasionale Vergadering wou laat goedkeur sonder bespreking. Die terugtrekking het gevolg nadat die WRP die volgende brief aan Nujoma gerig het. (Dit was duidelik dat die Wetsontwerp heeltemal onbevoegd was.)



WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (WRP) TO REBUILD THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 3349 Windhoek Tel: 061-260647 namab737@gmail.com

OPE BRIEF

27 Januarie 2017

Die Agbare Utoni Nujoma
Minister van Grondhervorming
Regering van Namibia
Windhoek



Mnr die Minister,

RE: Jou Wetsontwerp; weiering om bespreking uit te stel

Die WRP Sentrale Komitee le hiermee hul resoluëie voor geneem op Vrydag, 27 Januarie 2017, rakende jou weiering om bespreking van jou Grond Wetsontwerp uit te stel.

1. Daar is geen rede vir die dringendheid waarvoor jy dit ter tafel wil le nie. Dit maak ook geen sin hoekom jy dit voor die Grond Konferensie in September wil doen nie.
2. Dit is onbevoegd omdat die begrip "Gemeenskapsgrond" wat die sentrale begrip van jou ontwerp is nie gedefinieerd is nie, wat dit is en wat dit in regs terme beteken.

On point 1: Die Minister het geen regsbevoegdheid om die dringendheid van 'n wet te bepaal nie. Dit is suiwers die mag van die Nasionale Vergadering. Jy is dus buite jou perke en aanmatigend om te bepaal dat dit dringend behandel sal word.

On point 2: Die fundamentele konsep van die Wetsontwerp "Gemeenskapsgrond" is nie gedefinieerd nie. Sy regs karakter moet omskryf word in terme van bestaande wetgewing en wet om dit te onderwerp aan voorgestelde wetgewing en om dit binne die reëlsomvang van die Nasionale Vergadering te plaas. Jy omskryf nie wat "Gemeenskapsgrond" beteken en vir daardie rede kan jy nie logies wetgewing voorstel rakende "Gemeenskapsgrond". Is dit eiendom? Maar eiendom word omskryf deur Wet en daar is baie wette wat dit bestuur.

"Gemeenskapsgrond" is die privaat eiendom van die bepaalde gemeenskap in terme van die Reg. Dit is privaat eiendom van die bepaalde volk in terme van Internasionale Reg, onderworpe aan hul geskrewe en tradisionele reg. In terme van die Grondwet as Privaat Eiendom sal dit beskerm word deur die Staat. Dit word nie gedoen nie.

Dit is om hierdie rede dat jou Wetsontwerp nie 'n omskrywing van "Gemeenskapsgrond" vervat nie. Intendeel, is dit die eksklusiewe eiendom van vrye assosiasie van mense (volkere).

(Die houe in Namibia het 'n beslissing ten gunste van Cultura 2000, 'n "vrye assosiasie" van mense wat gesamentlik grond besit het met die doel vir die groei en beskerming van die "kultuur" van alle "Europese nasies" in Namibia en alle "nie-Europese" volkere uitgesluit van "oortreding".)

Dit is derhalwe duidelik hoekom u nie eens probeer om "gemeenskapsgrond" (die kollektiewe grond van swart en rooi nasies) te definieer nie. Maar, dit is grond wat besit was deur spesifieke nasies lank voor die koms van kolonialisme. Die feit is dat sou die Grondwet as riglyn gebruik sou word, sou die nasies van Namibia hulle pre-koloniale grense herstel het as Private Eiendom. Ons merk op dat u wetsontwerp soos volg lees: As 'n plaaslike owerheid binne die grense van "gemeenskapsgrond" le, die grond staatsgrond word; die staat mag enige "gemeenskapsgrond" as staatsgrond verklaar, wat beteken dat die grond "niemandslaan" is volgens hierdie aksie.

Terwyl ons pynvol bewus is daarvan dat die Grondwet geskryf is deur die imperialiste, om kapitalistiese Privaat Eiendom te beskerm, is ons ook bewus daarvan dat die gemeenskappe se grond privaat eiendom is in terme van die Grondwet.

U wetsontwerp waarborg die absolute beskerming van kommersiële plase en die kapitalistiese eiendoms besitters van enige grond eise deur die verarmde plaas boere in sy totaliteit.

Benewens die sosio en ekonomiese eise van die gemeenskap oor die eienaarskap en gebruik van hulle grond vir hulle bestaan en ontwikkeling, se ons dat hulle eis dat hulle grond gomschryf word as private eiendom in regsterme. In hierdie verband sal ons saamwerk met gemeenskaps bewegings, organisasies an nasies insluitend die grondlose mense beweging en die AR om hulle eie wetsontwerp oor grond herforming te skep en te eis dat hulle grond behoortlik omschryf word as privaat eiendom, wat dit inderdaad is in terme van Internasionale reg en die Grondwet van Namibia.

Ons verwerp beide jou wetsontwerp en jou weiering om genoegsame bespreking daarvoor te open.

GEDATEER op WINDHOEK op hierdie 27^{ste} dag van JANUARIE 2017.

Hewat Beukes
Politieke Sekretaris
WRP Parlementarier

John Amuthenu
Lid van die Sentrale Komitee
WRP Parlementarier

NUMSA STATEMENT ON THE NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE

7 February, 2017

The proposed National Minimum Wage is a betrayal of the workers Movement

The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) has reiterated its disgust at the proposed amount of R3 500 per month as a National Minimum Wage. This proposal reinforces South Africa as a haven for cheap labour, just as it was under Apartheid. To add insult to injury, we woke up to the announcement that there was an intention to sign a deal which would commit workers to a minimum hourly rate of just R20 per hour. This was done without any consultation, let alone any mandate from the South African working class. If this agreement were to be implemented, it would be the final nail in the coffin for the workers struggle in South Africa.

Once again COSATU and FEDUSA need to go back to basics. They must reclaim their revolutionary credentials. These federations should have known from the beginning that a minimum wage of R3500 per month is a betrayal of the worker's struggle for a living wage and decent work. This proposal should have been rejected outright. But instead, these yellow unions compromised their values to champion the cause of Capital.

If these federations still had revolutionary consciousness they would have been aware that that NEDLAC and all similar corporatist institutions and regimes, promote class harmony. NEDLAC's goal is to create the illusion of class harmony when the reality is that we exist in a class divided society.

That is why it is compulsory that any union which claims to be representing workers', must operate on the basis of a mandate and must be accountable to workers'. These union leaders who continue to tip toe in the shadows of both business and Cyril Ramaphosa, have been seriously captured. They are implementing Thatcherism in the 21st century. FEDUSA and COSATU are moving all over the world, attending neo-liberal global platforms, like the World Economic Forum; World Bank and the IMF. The question must be asked: What are they doing when they legislate slavery wages for workers and impose a limitation on the constitutional right to strike? Whose class interests are they representing? What kind of worker would mandate them to agree to R20 per hour or R3500 per month?

Their greed for power has made them complacent. They are driven by politics of the stomach, and no longer have the interests of workers at heart.

COSATU and FEDUSA have been reduced to rubber stamping decisions of the ruling party's NEC

Even though COSATU and FEDUSA seem to have had cold feet over this issue, and are now refusing to sign the deal brokered by NEDLAC, they have still failed to redeem themselves. They should have known that there is no free lunch! Their role in government has been reduced to rubber stamping decisions of the ruling party's NEC. They long ago ceased to be champions of workers' rights.

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa who led the process to negotiate this agreement, has proven time and time again that he is hostile to workers. Do not allow his so-called Anti-Apartheid credentials fool you. Ramaphosa may have been the man who founded the now obsolete National Union of Mineworkers, but this former activist destroyed his legacy when he waged war on the miners in Marikana in 2012. His hands remain stained with the blood of 34 workers who died fighting for dignity and a decent wage. The deputy president must be reminded that the demand of mineworkers whom he and the government massacred, was R12500 per month. NUMSA is not surprised that the deputy president has been driving this process. After all, this is the same man who

played a principal role in negotiating South Africa's transition to democracy. His betrayal of the movement has its roots in the negotiated settlement of the 1990's. Twenty two years into democracy and it has become painfully clear that the settlement was designed to protect only the interests of white capital, and a small African elite. For this, Ramaphosa was rewarded by White business and transformed from a trade unionist, to a powerful boss and shareholder. Ramaphosa, the billionaire and ultra-capitalist, values his precious buffalo more than the lives of human beings.

NUMSA wants to remind Ramaphosa and the ANC that our liberation did not come cheap. African people suffered terrible humiliation and oppression; others were killed for the freedoms that we now enjoy. The figure of R20 per hour is an insult to those who gave up everything for the struggle. And they must know nothing about us, without us.

NUMSA has been calling for a more considered approach on the minimum wage

NUMSA has been calling for a more considered approach on the minimum wage. Government should have taken time to research the salaries of the most senior executives in various sectors to enable them to construct a fair amount. For example, the 2016 pay taken home by Shoprite chief executive Whitey Basson – more than R100 million – is 3500 times more, than that of a typical casualised worker at his stores. How does Ramaphosa justify a wage of R20 per hour in the face of such rampant greed! How does a parent educate, clothe and feed their family on a measly salary of R3500 per month, when government is also refusing to subsidize tertiary education and public transport.

South African workers in particular the youth must not allow themselves to be misled by the ANC.

For twenty two years Ramaphosa and the ANC have bent over backwards to accommodate white business. Through neo-liberalist policies like GEAR and the NDP they have done everything to please investors, and it's simply not good enough. The economy has not grown, and poverty levels have reached dangerous levels. With the help of the Ramaphosa's of this world, white monopoly capitalists will continue to be major beneficiaries, along with a small minority of Black people – Just as it was under Apartheid. South African workers in particular the youth must not allow themselves to be misled by the ANC. Ramaphosa's actions are exposing the true motives of the ruling party. The fact that the ANC at their Lekgotla can claim that they will radically transform the economy, when they have no elaborated plan to nationalize the mines; there is no plan to change the constitution for land redistribution; and no strategy to fully implement the Freedom Charter, is evidence that they are taking society for a ride. It is a pathetic attempt to pacify the rage of the disgruntled masses. Clearly the ANC is permanently disabled. It can't be taken back to its historical liberation mission.

NUMSA notes the withdrawal of the signing of the sell-out final agreement on the National Minimum Wage, by Ramaphosa and his stooges in COSATU and FEDUSA. We are clear that workers must not to be fooled. They must accept that now is the time to take the future into their hands. There is no deal which will stop the South African worker from fighting for a living national minimum wage.

NUMSA will mobilize its members and the working class to fight against these slavery wages and the limitation on the right to strike. We will not rest until all of the objectives of the National Democratic Revolution which is the most direct route to Socialism and the Freedom Charter are achieved.

Issued by Irvin Jim
General Secretary, NUMSA

Xenophobia is die vrees vir die vreemde. Dit word gebruik om buitelanders die skuld te gee vir alles wat in 'n land verkeerd gaan. NUMSA die metaalwerkersunie van Suid Afrika, die grootste werkersunie in Afrika met ongeveer 600,000 lede saam met gemeenskapsorganisasies lei die stryd teen xenophobia.



THE NUMSA AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS ORGANISE AGAINST XENOPHOBIA.

XENOPHOBIA IS USED BY EXPLOITERS TO USE THE WORKING CLASS AGAINST THE WORKING CLASS !!!

United Front (JHB Region), 5th floor, JC Bez Numsa Building, 32-34 Eloff Street, Johannesburg

Dear comrades

WATCH OUT! THE XENOPHOBIA MONSTER IS COMING BACK

We are writing to you because we are concerned that xenophobia is rearing its ugly head again in South Africa. In our recent meetings we have been getting reports from various community organisations and civics which suggest this. There does not seem to be any threat of violence yet, but we all know how quickly these things can escalate. We are worried that public figures such as the Mayor of Johannesburg Herman Mashaba have made some xenophobic statements against "illegal foreigners" who hijack buildings in the city. Most seriously, an organisation in Mamelodi is trying to organise a march against "foreigners" in the community – blaming them for the structural unemployment crisis, suggesting that South Africa shouldn't give refuge to refugees, accusing migrants of drugging women and selling them as sex slaves. What is most worrying is that this organisation has been contacting other areas such as Alexandra in an attempt to spread their xenophobic ideas.

Xenophobia is bad for everyone. It divides the working class and the poor. It sows fear and hatred in communities. It can lead to attacks and the death and injury of innocent people. Xenophobic ideas are based on stereotypes and the denigration of foreign nationals. The foundations of xenophobia are racism, tribalism and colonialism. Xenophobia is based on a false analysis and wrong understanding of the problems facing the working class and the poor. The victims of poverty, unemployment and inequality, of oppression and exploitation, end up blaming and attacking each other while the true oppressors and exploiters are left alone to continue with their oppression and exploitation. The struggle for a better life for all is undermined. The struggle against the capitalist exploiter is weakened by xenophobia.

The rise of xenophobia is not happening only in South Africa. The new president Donald Trump has made a law which bans people from "Muslim" countries from travelling into the USA. He won the elections using the slogan "Put America First." What he really means is that white American men come first and everyone else comes second or third. His slogan is racist, nationalistic, chauvinistic, sexist and exclusivist. We see the same politics by some opportunistic leaders in Europe where there is a rise of right-wing ideas including support for fascism. The situation in Great Britain its exit from the European Union (Brexit) suggests that the capitalist crisis provoked xenophobic sentiments among sections of this society. Many ordinary people in the world are responding to the global economic capitalist crisis by turning to a narrow, inward-looking politics of self-preservation.

Capitalism is a system of exploitation. It is based on stealing the wealth produced by workers. When the bosses cannot make profits they try and make workers pay. They put you on short-time, retrench, close down factories, increase prices, avoid paying taxes, etc. The solution to this is not to fight over the less and less that the capitalists give us. This is what xenophobia does. The solution is to unite and fight against the capitalist class and their system of exploitation. We have to see that the worker next door and from the other country is our brother and sister in the class struggle. The only lasting solution is to overthrow the capitalist system and replace it with a system where the wealth will be shared equally by all.

We therefore call upon all community and trade union leaders, all community organisations and unions, all civics and youth/student formations to be on guard against these reactionary elements who are spreading xenophobia. Silence is consent. We must take active steps to fight and eradicate this cancer.

Some steps that we can all take to fight the xenophobia cancer are the following:

Put xenophobia on our meeting agendas. In our civics, community structures and unions. Discuss and analyse the issue. Take a resolution against xenophobia.

Discuss the history of colonialism and how Africans and other peoples of the world were divided by the colonisers. Discuss ideas of struggle that were used to unite the colonised such as nationalism, Pan-Africanism, South-South solidarity and socialism. Debate whether and how we can use them to fight against xenophobia today.

Make contact with migrant organisations that exist in our communities. Find ways of working together on campaigns that affect us all e.g. the struggle for houses for all.

Speak out against xenophobia in any public/mass meetings we attend.

Speak out against xenophobia in any private discussions we have.

Speak to the police in our areas and express your concern. Get the details of a high-ranking officer that we can call if violence or looting breaks out in the area.

Defend foreign migrants and nationals that are under attack. An injury to one is an injury to all.

You and your organisation are invited to send three delegates to attend a public meeting of the United Front of Johannesburg which will discuss xenophobia in detail including its causes, forms and how to eradicate it. Other matters relating to the struggles of workers, communities and students will also be discussed.

DATE: Sunday, 19 February 2017 TIME: 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. VENUE: 5th floor, J C Bez Numsa House, 32-34 Eloff Street, Johannesburg CBD.

NO ONE IS ILLEGAL! FORWARD WITH UNITY AND SOLIDARITY! AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the important discussion against Xenophobia may write to "Die Werker". We will forward it to the United Front in South Africa. Our address is "Die Werker, namab737@gmail.com/ericabeukes@yahoo.co.uk.

PLAN FIGHTERS AND COMMITTEE OF PARENTS BEGIN THE INQUIRY INTO CRIMES AGAINST NAMIBIAN REFUGEES DURING 1966-1989

PLAN fighters united with the Committee of Parents for an inquiry into the killing, disappearances and abuse of Namibian refugees during the period 1966-89. On 1 March 2016 they wrote the following letter to some of the instances involved in the issue.

Letter of the COMMITTEE OF PARENTS and THE TRUTH & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

1 March 2016

TO : THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Section on Human Rights Abuses.

THE PRESIDENT OF NAMIBIA

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN NAMIBIA

THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS – USA, GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN, CANADA, FRANCE

Continued Human Rights Abuses

The above two Committees were brought about by effected Namibians, whose family members and Comrades suffered and died at the hands of the SWAPO Party, while in exile. These abuses continue today, albeit in a different form, as survivors of these abuses on their return to Namibia after independence, continue to be marginalized and prejudiced at Government Institutions in various ways etc.

The former fighters are being discriminated against and humiliated by the SWAPO Leadership in every conceivable way.

They are refused veteran status and therefore cannot overcome the continued hardship the SWAPO leaders are bringing onto them.

They are called derogatory and degrading names etc. South African Agents, Puppets of the South African Regime, Imperialist Agents, Spies and Counter Revolutionaries

In the light of the above and the general discrimination against this group, we demand that the wrongs that we have suffered and continue to suffer be rectified.

We want the SWAPO Party and Government to categorically declare that we were not South African Spies of the South African Regime and to stop the vilification of our names and personalities. They have poisoned the communities from where we come and is sowing division amongst our families and communities.

SWAPO must rectify the falsified history of 1976 call for a congress which SWAPO called a rebellion. It is important for us that this denunciation be done for us, our children, our families, the people from the villages and towns we come from, the broader Namibian nation and the world at large.

The Committee of Parents came to know about the atrocities in the SWAPO camps in Exile in Angola and Zambia' after reports surfaced from delegates to a SWAPO meeting held in Lusaka in September 1984. We at that time learnt about the difficulties experienced by the youth of 1976 and that this had been ongoing since that call for a Congress in 1976. They were allowed and aided to continue with their atrocities by the governments of Zambia and Tanzania, and later Angola. The lucky ones that were able to flee these atrocities in Tanzania and Zambia, eventually found refuge in Kenya. These are the people

that SWAPO is continuing to purge and persecute to this day.

⁶ We therefore demand the following:

1. The clearance of our names.
2. Reparations for suffering and the losses that we have incurred due to the action of the SWAPO leadership and their allies.
3. Counseling to offset the effects of years of hunger, thirst and pain that we suffered for the sake of liberation
4. Our names be cleared in Namibia, Zambia, Tanzania and the world at large
5. The our role in the liberation be recognized internationally.
6. That the monies that were expropriated from us in Zambia in 1974, be reimbursed to us with interest.
7. A reputable, impartial commission of enquiry to be instituted to investigate the abuse of Human Rights of Namibians in exile in Angola, Zambia and Tanzania.
8. The Namibian Parliament passes a Bill of National Reconciliation for the Whole Nation to rectify the wrongs of the past.
9. Most importantly, we want the SWAPO Leadership, the Governments of Angola, Zambia and Tanzania, The United Nations Refugee Department, The Lutheran World Federation and the Council of Churches in Namibia, to declare the whereabouts of our missing and unaccounted for people that vanished in exile.

We also hold the 5 Western Powers that brokered the so-called "Liberation Deal", accountable for their devious role in the whole episode.

Furthermore we will expose to the Namibian People, and all working people in the different countries about the "cover-up" by churches and Human Rights Organisations as well as Donor agencies and donor Countries Norway and Sweden.

The youth and the Namibian People in particular the Working People of today must be informed about the atrocities and how these organizations played a leading role in "covering up" these abuses thus distorting the true history of our country.

These revelations and the true history of our country must not be lost to the youth and future generations. We cannot build a truly free and democratic Namibia while there are still so many outstanding matters on which the perpetrators of gross human violations continue to keep silence. It is important for our youth to know the true history in order to avoid an occurrence, which is slowly starting to come to the fore.

Together with the support of the same agencies and countries like before the SWAPO regime is driving this country to a very dangerous and oppressive situation.

We attach our Joint Declaration hereto.

We await your response to our letter by 26 March 2016.

ERICA BEUKES

JOHN AMUTHENU

On behalf of the Committee of Parents and The Truth & Justice Committee



Calle Schlettwein
Minister of Finance

Editorial

The Namibian Government in Fiscal Trouble
In January 2016 the Workers Revolutionary Party made the following statement in its newspaper "Die Werker", "**The reckless spending and theft have created a cash-strapped regime and it is clear that the War Reparations offer a**

source of cash and continued theft."

What a insightful statement this turned out to be, as the wheels started coming off from the Namibian fiscus towards the end of 2016.

The Government Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) already ravaged by depletion was used to pay government workers, their own money.

It should be noted that the annual budget was discussed in April 2016 with not a word of the bankruptcy of the State. This means that the parliamentary discussions were just nonsense.

It was a 26-year long road, a nice but short life. In 1989 Windhoek City had amongst its investments R4 billion in South Africa. A few years ago it owed NAD800 million.

But, this bankruptcy clarified a number of things and brought together things which appeared apart. For one, this is not a real state. It is something like a homeland state. It does not run the fiscus. It does not regulate industry and the economy generally. This is done by South African financial, industrial and retail concerns. It does not bail out banks!!!

In its desperation to continue a façade it desperately try to push through legislation which must stop the Namibian landless from demanding land. We think the idea is to get payment for their services from in particular Germany, which has an enormous cultural and economic stake in the country. It is doubtful that the imperialists will pay what is needed. They might help them to limb on.

The very exploding land struggle is a struggle against the flogging off of a whole country by pre-capitalist tribal social-political forms.

But, it is a struggle which only the working class can give meaning to, as already the tribal chiefs are sidestepping the real issue of sustainable development by revolutionary land reform coupled with the provision of State finances and technical resources. They want monetary compensation for 'WAR REPARATIONS' not 'COLONIAL RESTITUTION FOR DISPOSSESSION' under their personal control, which like oil billions will not see the working masses. From the north to the south, from the selling of collective property in the north to Chinese capitalism, to the south where the last remnants of reserves are being privatized, the working class must conceive of their own independent programme and demands on Land Reform.

The Workers Revolutionary Party is there to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the working class as we already stood with the Southern Peoples Allegiance in Keetmanshoop in 2012 and the landless of Augheikas near Windhoek in 1992.

TALE OF AN EX-DETAINEE

7

We'd rather put up with the ordeal
Isn't exile a pride?
You cannot judge us,
But merely respect us.

However much we forgive,
We cannot find consolation
Every day, we relive what happened.
Every day.

We still smell the stench of them
They came back many times
Each time, they...
Accused. Humiliated. Taunted. Tortured.
And our innocence was drowned
They should have killed us.
It's a miracle they didn't.

You know, a dungeon...
At first, you're like a child
Holding your fellow detainee's hand,
Feeling safe.

Then a time comes...
And it always comes
When your fellow detainee lets go.
You're lost,
Alone in the dark.
You cry out, but no one answers.

We struggled to survive
Deprive of adequate sustenance
Denied of grave and bed
Backbreaking days
In the sun and rain
And in those moments of deep despair
We had understood the meaning of Auschwitz.

As if our pain could have no ending
We keep dreaming...
After the release,
We'll go to find our families,
Wherever they may be.
We keep thinking about them
But can't tell anyone.
(From "All Of Africa Belongs To Me" - Collected Poems
by Edward Ndopu)

THE HOLOCAUST OF ALL HOLOCAUSTS

By Fuad Arnold (Cape Town)

We in our ignorance, "Estimates of the native population of America prior to the European conquest vary from twelve million to eighteen million, composing more than six hundred distinct tribal societies, speaking over five hundred languages. But after four centuries of warfare, massacre, disease, and dispossession, the original population was reduced by over 90 percent, a holocaust whose magnitude remains largely unmatched and unrecognized today. Whole tribes were completely exterminated or whittled down to scattered numbers. In this way the "Wild West" was "tamed" and "settled."



Nixon Marcus
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The last line of defence of capitalist interest

• NIXON MARCUS

FOR WORKERS to turn to the courts to vindicate their demands for better working conditions is tantamount to workers appealing to the shareholders of the company, after management refused to give them a salary increase.

In a capitalist country, such as Namibia, the judiciary, as part of the capitalist superstructure, operates as the last line of defence for capitalist interests. Employers who are faced with strikes by workers know that the courts will intervene in the dispute to their advantage. They know that their last line of defence will hold.

The owners of capital celebrate judgments in their favour as the vindication of the rule of law and the avoidance of anarchy.

The tension and conflict between the capitalists and the workers in a capitalist country is unavoidable. Sophisticated capitalist societies deal with this ongoing conflict by providing rules on how to manage that conflict.

The trick employed by the system is to sell to the workers the idea that the laws are their own laws. The workers - although unhappy about their economic conditions - are coaxed into agreeing to abide by the laws when waging their struggle for a better life. The laws by which the game is played once set by the elite class, are handed over to another elite class, the judiciary, for administration. Coming from a background of privilege, or having recently joined the privileged class, judges naturally adopt an interpretation that favours the owners of capital. They after all, were once employers and sat on the boards of companies and banks that now appear before them.

The result is the erosion of the power of unions, division of workers and further immiseration of workers. In an act of desperate self-defence, workers revolt and resort to what the law considers to be unlawful strikes. The workers realise that it is better to die fighting than to continue their vegetative state without dignity and self-worth.

Despite this gallant act of self-defence, which ordinarily would be a valid defence to any attack on a person, they can expect very little sympathy from the courts when charged with misconduct for par-

taking in an 'illegal strike' or even when intending to exercise their guaranteed right to strike.

In Namibia too, the judiciary has become an impenetrable bastion of privilege for its members and lawyers. It operates in a realm that is beyond any criticism and public scrutiny.

Terms such as rule of law and independence of the judiciary are brandished as a shield to maintain and extend their exalted status and privilege, or are used as a sword to extend such status and privilege. Rule of law has turned into the rule of the law-lords.

Any critical inquiry of their conduct is brandished as contempt of court and is criminally punishable. Imagine an offence of 'contempt of the office of the executive'.

Behind this impenetrable bastion, judges can take up to 10 years to deliver judgments with impunity. Constitutional amendments are passed that give the judiciary control over how to spend finances, something completely alien to the principle of separation of powers so dearly advocated by the judiciary. Constitutional amendments are passed that make it possible for the Judge President to be the head of the High Court and at the same time to be the second highest judge of the Supreme Court. Any lawyer will whisper to you that this blurs the separation between the two courts, with all its unfortunate implications to the right to a fair trial which come with it.

The lawyers can only whisper about these transgressions, because they fear the wrath of the judges or they themselves have been guilty of transgressions:

- they continue to operate as advocates and attorneys, although the intention of the Legal Practitioner Act was to do away with that distinction, resulting in increased legal costs to the public.
 - the Society of Advocates operates as a parallel organisation to the Law Society, setting its own rules of conduct and fees structure for its members;
 - the Society of Advocates, with the sanction of the courts, continues to confer the title of 'senior counsel' to its members, although the law did away with it;
 - the fees charged by lawyers, without any scrutiny by an outside body, are unconscionable considering the sea of poverty in this country, making access to justice for the majority of our people illusive.
- Once the workers realise that the judiciary is part of the same class as the owners of capital, they surely would want to avoid the courtrooms. The solution for the workers is to change the aims of the struggle from one, which is about how the rules are interpreted and applied to one that changes the rules of the game. Therein lies the liberation of the working class.

*** Nixon Marcus is a lawyer who has specialised in public law. He runs Nixon Marcus Public Law Office. He was an acting judge at times in the High Court of Namibia**