



Editorial Comment

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

The creators of wealth in our country are poised for a fierce battle. With their blood and sweat they have made South Africa what it is today - one of the richest countries in the capitalist world - and yet their children go to sleep with empty stomachs. They must necessarily reach a point when they must declare in unison: "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH". That time has now come.

In all major industrial centres Cape Town, Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and Durban as well as in other centres the black workers are irresistibly resorting to strike action demanding higher wages, better working conditions and trade union rights. As one of the more than 800 construction workers in Cape Town who went on strike put it: "So far we have been very patient, but we can't live on our wages any more".

While Fiet "Wapen" Botha talks of 'reforms' the conditions of the black worker, who is exploited not only as a worker but because of his colour according to the apartheid laws, are alarmingly deteriorating. The workers have learnt through bitter experience not to expect any favours from the Pretoria racists and the bosses who are united by a single purpose - to get exceedingly high profits by intensifying the exploitation of the black worker and, when the back-breaking toil has sucked almost every bit of life from his body and brain drive him to the bantustan dumping sites there to die. The white worker, poisoned by privileges and racist ideology falls

to pledge solidarity with his black class brother and it is precisely this state of affairs that the Botha-Malan clique want to maintain with their deceptive schemes like the Riekert and Wiehahn Commissions.

In spite of all the 'sweet talk' by the Pretoria boers their hypocrisy is glaringly exposed by their promptness in employing their repressive machinery to suppress the workers whenever they are involved in a conflict with their bosses. Recently 42 workers who were involved in a massive strike that covered 17 meat enterprises in Cape Town were arrested in a pre-dawn raid, in Boksburg 55 workers were arrested following a strike involving close to a thousand workers at Rely Precision Castings, in New Germany, Durban police used teargas to disperse the more than 6,000 striking workers, helicopters were used to teargas 4,500 striking black miners, while police squads from Klerksdorp, Stilfontein and Orkney were mobilised to reinforce the mine security units. Presently as we go to press many workers are being harassed by racist police as more than 10,000 municipal workers in Johannesburg are continuing with their strike. The list is long and many are the workers who have been brutally murdered by the police.

Instead of intimidating the workers, the violence unleashed by the racist state machinery has demonstrated to the workers the extent to which the apartheid regime fears the militancy of the workers, the need for the workers to strengthen their unity by pledging solidarity with workers in other enterprises. Decisions like the one taken by the Stevedores workers in Cape Town, who threatened to refuse to load any Table Bay Cold Storage meat products of the management replaced striking workers, must be followed up with action to put more pressure on the bosses. As the workers' committee openly stated: "We will not be happy to load the meat if it is sent to us by scab workers employed in place of striking workers", and SACTU said and continues to say: "AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL".

The present situation inside the country serves as a reminder to the workers of the resolution taken by SACTU 25 years ago when it was established, stating: "... a mere struggle for economic rights of the workers without participation in the general struggle for political emancipation would condemn the trade union movement to uselessness and to a betrayal of the interests of the workers". This declaration has assumed added significance especially in this year which SACTU

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expenditure of the struggle. The injection of new ideas, which channel the church into the struggle and neutralise the petty-bourgeois tendencies which manifest themselves in the acceptance of hand-outs to satisfy personal interests, is needed.

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declared THE YEAR OF THE WORKER to mark the 25th anniversary of its foundation on March 5, 1955, and even more so when all progressive mankind is joining the working class of our country in taking stock of the road traversed by their vanguard party - the South African Communist Party, a working class organisation which since its creation on July 29, 1921, through its committed participation in our struggle for national liberation has proved itself to be an indispensable component of our liberation movement.

At this hour of our liberation struggle, in this great Year of the Freedom Charter, when the fascist rulers are frantically doing everything they can think of to preserve the abhorrent apartheid system, the workers must increasingly throw in their lot with the rest of the oppressed people. The question of how long the apartheid system will survive depends ultimately on the workers whose labour is the source of the huge profits which enable the Pretoria racists to maintain their repressive machinery, to pay their personnel, to buy additional arms etc. But the workers alone cannot fulfil this gigantic mission. They must join hands with the rest of the oppressed masses - peasants, students, progressive intellectuals, believers and non-believers - and the increasing number of democratic whites. The daring actions of our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, must always be backed with mass political action involving all the cross-sections of our population such as the current strikes, demand for an unconditional release of Comrade Nelson Mandela, the militant opposition to all apartheid practices like Bantu Education. The racists must not be given any chance to rest.

This is above all a challenge to us combatants of MK to improve our discipline and strengthen our conviction so that together with our entire people led by the African National Congress we can advance to final victory saying:

FORWARD TO A PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT!