



# **The Spark**



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### **SA and French troops out of Central African Republic**

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# Editorial

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## **Cyprus**

As we go to press, the masses of Cyprus (an island in the Mediterranean sea next to Greece) are being robbed by the same international banks that are robbing the rest of Europe; yet the masses in Europe allow one of the biggest attacks yet- those with deposits of over R1.5 million are losing 40% of it overnight. In other words if you have R1.5 million in the bank, you lose R600 000 overnight. This money that has been taken from your bank account will not be used for roads or any socially useful purpose, it is being handed over to international banks like Goldman Sachs, Deutsche Bank and JP Morgan Chase. Just who the money is being handed to, we would all like to know.

It is not only the deposits that are being stolen by the international banks, these banksters are stealing workers' pension and providend fund monies too. Why should we worry?

- ☒ The international banks are using Cyprus as a test case; if they can get away with it there, they will gradually use this throughout the whole world.
- ☒ JP Morgan Chase and other such banks are main shareholders in Anglo American and even the SA Reserve Bank
- ☒ These same international banks are ultimately behind the recent military coup in the Central African Republic.

Anglo American wants to retrench 14 000 mineworkers at Amplats; in Cyprus the same owners of Anglo American are robbing the masses. Why should we let them get away with theft and murder?

As a start we call for the working class in Europe to unite and mobilise for a continental general strike, setting up strike committees at every workplace. It is only the working class in power that will be able to expropriate the international companies and banks. We need a Socialist Europe based on grassroots workers committees.

A Socialist Europe is directly connected with a liberated Africa. We call on all immigrant workers in Europe to unite with the European worker to overthrow the capitalist regimes and establish workers' power. If capitalism cannot give work to our youth, let it perish.

## **Syria**

Imperialism continues to support both Assad and the Free Syrian Army. The victims are the Syrian masses; yet among the grassroots committees there are trends within the masses who continue to fight Assad and the enemy within.

If the imperialists are able to defeat the Syrian masses, they will seek to general the fascistic methods on a world scale. The masses in Libya, Tunisia, Egypt are still on the move, temporarily set back by the capitalist leadership that has hijacked the mass struggle to overthrow the capitalist regime.

On a world scale, the masses continue to fight. The capitalist class are in a fight for their very lives. The situation cries out for the left to unite in a revolutionary International.

## **Central African Republic**

The heads of the SA army deny that the CAR soldiers attacked the SA troops in CAR. The facts show otherwise:

- ☒ The new leader Michel Djotodia was until early March the Defence Minister of the compromise government with the ousted leader Bozize (clearly Djotodia must have had some links with the CAR army (the FACA);



☞ Within days of Djotodia seizing power, the heads of the military have pledged their full support. Coincidence? We think not.

There is overwhelming evidence that US and French imperialism were prepared to sacrifice the lives of at least 15 SA soldiers and many CAR rebels, to install a new dictator to terrorise the masses so that imperialism can dominate the country for the next few years. SA and French troops out of CAR, now.

### **Workers and Socialist Party, WASP**

We are in the process of finalizing our participation in the Workers and Socialist Party, WASP. We have been assured that we can participate under our own name and with our own programme. The party was launched on 21 March in Pretoria where we were present. We are discussing participating on the basis that the party should be a party of struggle, that there can be no parliamentary road to Socialism and that participation in this capitalist parliament on any level has to be from the perspective of exposing and ultimately disbanding it, replacing it with workers' councils that are directly elected and subject to instant recall, without privileges.

There appears to be a trend within the Wasp that seeks to turn it into a parliamentary party, although with left rhetoric. We will contest this trend. There will be a Congress within a few months; if it adopts an opportunist position on elections, we will go our separate ways but for now, we hope to march together with the Wasp comrades in the class battles that are breaking out daily. After all, our programme on the current class struggles is a reflection of where we really stand. Let the left activists start to unite. The world situation cries out for it. We print in this paper our contribution to the debate on the class character and programme of what kind of working class party we need.

### **Write to us**

There are no groupings that are without mistakes; please write to us if you feel we are wrong or if you differ with us, or if you agree with us; further, if you have any issue, large or small that you would like to have published, we will publish it, if necessary with our own comment. Remember, we are not funded by any capitalist; we are funded by workers. Study this newspaper, form study groups, write to us, we can send you cd's of Marx, Engels, Trotsky and Lenin's works (although Lenin's works need to be carefully read as they still bear the mark of falsification by the Stalinist Progress Publishers). Let us build a national, regional and international network of revolutionary correspondents and activists.

### **The Hex River bus tragedy**

The Hex River crash by Atlantic City Liners where 24 died and 8 are still critical, shows why public transport should be nationalised and run on a basis of putting safety first. The rush for profits and the race to the bottom leads to cutting corners and compromising on essentials like checking the brakes.

This is a world wide phenomenon. We are reminded about the train crash at Terrabusi in Argentina where a privatised rail company built a double decker train to make more profit but consistently failed safety checks on their brakes (leading to a recent rail disaster where many were killed when a train crashed into a barrier after the brakes failed).

Capitalism is killing us. It needs to go. Let's intensify the fight for Socialism! We need a new revolutionary working class party to spearhead this fight, uniting the many activists who are, up to now, fighting on our own.

### **International Women's Day 8<sup>th</sup> March**

8th March International Day of working class struggle against oppression and exploitation of women; in 1917 women's protest in Russia contributed to the start of the February revolution where the Czar was overthrown. In 1908 the Socialist Party of America commemorated the struggle of women textile and garment workers on 28 Feb. Let us remember the contribution of women in the struggle against the capitalist system; without women standing up in struggle, we will never be free. Women also rose up to commemorate those killed by the capitalists when they drowned the 1871 Paris Commune in blood. To begin to stand up for Anene Booyens and Valencia Farmers, let us recommit ourselves to fight this capitalist system, worldwide.



### **The formation of the Workers' Union in Namibia**

One of the outcomes of the biggest strike since independence has been the rejection by the biggest affiliate of NUNW (National Union of Namibian Workers) of its alliance with Swapo. Instead of mobilizing for a Congress of the NUNW and pushing for it to break completely from Swapo, the majority of teachers have resigned from their union and the NUNW, and formed the Workers' Union, a general union. With a struggle, we think it would have been possible to get the entire NUNW to break from Swapo, due to years of betrayals by the Swapo govt. One of the other gains of the recent teachers' strike in Namibia has been the formation of committees, which united teachers with parents (workers- employed and unemployed). This signified a step towards a unified revolt against the system. The formation of the Workers' Union, while we may support their economic demands, turns the political revolt into a union struggle; it also divides workers and thus weakens the fight against the union bureaucracy and the capitalists. The capitalists may seize on the divisions among workers and accelerate their offensive against the working class.

A re-think is required.

### **The Marikana Commission of Enquiry**

There has been months of exposure of the collusion of the management of Lonmin with the ANC leaders in a deliberate, brutal execution of the core at the heart of the resistance against super-exploitation of workers on the mines that capitalist relations are based on, not only in SA but the entire Africa. The DLF and SERI are playing the leadership role in this ongoing exposure.

What is being missed from the critique of the current exposure is the leading role of Anglo American, the dominant player in Platinum and the broader mining industry. The Lonmin management admitted they were under pressure from other players in the industry to act against the striking Marikana mineworkers. This points to Anglo American, who must have given the instruction for the workers to be massacred. The ANC govt would have consulted with Anglo American before sending the elite police special forces in to attempt to break the core of the resistance, shoot to kill. Imperialism miscalculated. Instead of beating the mineworkers into submission (Anglo thought that the NUM and Cosatu leaders still had an iron grip on the workers that would allow further exploitation until kingdom come- they were mistaken), there arose the biggest strike wave ever in the country's history, as much against the capitalist class as against the Cosatu leadership and the ANC govt.

The inroads made by AMCU has turned the political revolt against the state into a fragmented union struggle. The workers committees that sprang up, uniting all workers irrespective of union, and which united unemployed and other sector workers in surrounding communities, have largely collapsed.

We need a political programme of demands that will take the revolt that has started to the next level. The DLF is not helping by limiting the demands only for Police Commissioner, Phiyega to be fired. The central demand should be that Cosatu should break its alliance with the ANC govt.



***Did Anglo American give the order for the Marikana massacre?***



## **SA and French troops out of Central African Republic! For a Workers govt centred on mineworker committees and supported by committees of poor peasants**

Central African Republic, CAR, was a French colony which gained 'independence' in 1960. In reality CAR became a neo-colony of French imperialism- in other words, the French capitalists remained in control but now used an indigenous government as its frontman. Whenever local leaders began to lose control over the masses, French imperialism used a section of the military to stage a coup so that they still remain in control while the new military figurehead made some promises to the masses.

As we have been saying over and over again, the current revolt by the masses is on a world scale, it is not an 'Arab Spring' as some bourgeois commentators claim. Every capitalist regime is under attack. While mass revolts were underway in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and elsewhere, a new trend has been developing in parts of Francafrique (parts of Africa still under French imperialist domination):

- To pre-empt the masses from overthrowing regimes in Francafrique, French imperialism has led the military toppling of regimes so that they remain in control, while at the same time terrorising the masses into submission;
- These military coups have been carried out where the regimes were threatened but there was not a strong union bureaucracy or similar social agencies to help curb the militancy of the masses;
- US, British, French, German and Japanese imperialism formed a united front against the masses; in other words, through the UN, AU and other imperialist organs, they gave support to the new military juntas to crush the mass revolt;
- Where US imperialism has begun to make inroads into the areas formerly controlled exclusively by French imperialism, the 2 powers have acted together to prevent the masses from overthrowing the regime;

Recently, when there was a stalemate between 2 armed factions of the state in Ivory Coast, French imperialism invaded and ousted the current President Gbagbo and installed newcomer Ouattara. This was done with the blessing of the UN.

In Mali, the Tuareg militias advanced to seize control of the north of the country. Militias supported by US imperialism hijacked the revolt against the regime, diverting it into an 'Islamist' objective (in reality, deliberately dividing the masses – see our article on Mali in *The Spark*). In the south, a military coup was supported by French imperialism, which was followed up by an invasion of French troops to prop up this new regime. The UN recognised the coup govt. A spontaneous revolt against the Mali regime was thus pre-empted by the united front of imperialism against the masses.

### **How imperialism acts against the masses in Central African Republic**

In 2003 Francois Bozize came to power in a military coup in Central African Republic, CAR. Bozize organised 'elections' in 2007 and 2011 which he won while conveniently excluding his opposition from running. Reflecting the growing influence of US imperialism in the CAR, Bozize signed agreements with the SA govt in 2007 supposedly for training his military elite. [the SA state reflects competing US and French imperialist interests but also that US imperialism is the dominant imperialism in SA]. Bozize continued the same super-exploitation of the CAR masses as the President before him. Today, out of a survey of 221 capital cities around the world, Bangui, the capital of CAR, comes in at 220, just ahead of Baghdad which is still suffering the effects of being 'civilised' by US imperialism for the past 10 years. Most people in CAR die before the age of 60 and the masses suffer on an income just less than \$2 per day (R18 per day). This is despite CAR being mineral rich, having so much diamonds that these lie all over the ground; there is much gold, copper and Uranium.



The masses have been growing weary of Bozize, who has favoured his own friends and failed to integrate armed factions of his opponents (fearing a coup).

Reading the signs, French imperialism prepared for another coup to pre-empt a mass revolt against Bozize which could have given courage to the masses in the entire region, if not the rest of the continent, even pointing the way to the masses in Europe and elsewhere. Under current world conditions, when every capitalist regime is under threat, imperialism wants to crush revolt everywhere. This is background to the recent events in the CAR.

While Areva (French imperialism) controls the Uranium sector, the diamond and gold sectors are now dominated by North American companies: CAMCO (Central African Mining company is really controlled by Toronto-based Emergem Resources) controls 1160 square km of diamond fields; while US company Foy-Johnson controls 79 000 hectares of land with significant gold deposits; Canadian Axmin also has significant mining activity in CAR. Thus both French and US imperialism have significant assets to maintain control over.

Imperialism pushes 3 armed factions into a coalition, called Seleca, and they begin taking over towns from the north, up the diamond town of Bria and stop within a few km of the capital Bangui. At the same time, an armed group backed by US imperialism, called the Lord's Resistance Army, LRA, also joins forces with the Seleca. US imperialism is aware of this but still withdrew their diplomatic corp from Bangui in December 2012. Publicly, US imperialism has declared that it is hunting the leadership of the LRA, Kony; they know the LRA operates in northern CAR, but they still withdrew. This further confirms what we have been saying for a long time, namely that the LRA is an agency of US imperialism, used in the DRC and in the rest of the region, to terrorise the masses, using rape and mass murder, to clear the land before US mining companies or their front agencies move in to plunder.

**Imperialism has a problem: they wanted to overthrow Bozize and replace him with a new puppet, but the SA govt has an agreement to protect the Presidential palace. So how to they achieve their objective? The longer Bozize remains, the greater the threat of a mass revolt against him.**

Firstly, the food supply to the Vimbizela camp is cut off by the heads of the SA army itself and for the past few weeks, the SA troops are living on rat packs (rations); secondly, the military heads of the SA troops in Vimbizela base realize that if they are attacked (remember the Seleca are just a few km away from Bangui in December), they do not have enough ammunition to defend themselves. The heads of the SA troops in Bangui request back up ammunition and supplies- this is denied by the Joint Ops command in SA. [Remember the Commander in Chief is President Zuma himself]. Thirdly, the group is splintered into groups of 5 soldiers each which are sent out to protect assets in Bangui of various US companies that have offices in SA. There are only a few protecting the Presidential palace of Bozize.

On Friday night 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the very CAR troops that the SA army has supposedly been sent to train, open fire on the SA troops and try to storm the Presidential palace. They are beaten back by the SA troops. Later that night, the Seleca and LRA troops attack Bangui. The SA troops are under severe stress (imagine 5 soldiers at a company site fighting off 150 'rebels'). Many rebel soldiers are killed and at least 15 SA soldiers perish as well. After some hours of fighting, when the head of SA Vimbizela troops radio to Joint Ops in SA that they are running out of ammunition and are likely to be all killed, the rebels present a white flag. The SA troops withdraw to the nearby airport (controlled by the French army), while the Seleca-LRA take over Bangui and the Presidential palace. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March, SA troops are flown out and reinforcements are flown in but only after Bozize is deposed and the new coup leader takes up office at the Presidential palace- the SA troops are at the airport, acting as an insurance in case the Seleca-LRA do not manage to curb the masses from attacking the US capitalist interests. Yes, Thuli Zuma, through Worldwide Africa Investments and Sasol have



interests in the CAR, yes, Ramaphosa, through Shanduka, has assets in the CAR. Both had assets being protected by SA soldiers; yes most likely some SA soldiers died protecting ANC leaders' assets, but the main role of the SA troops was to protect assets of US imperialist interests.

All along the French troops have not been attacked, nor have the FACA (CAR army) or the Seleca-LRA attacked any French company or the airport. This shows that the attacks by the CAR army and the Seleca-LRA were supported by French imperialism- a deal was done with them to leave the French capitalist interests intact.

### **Important lessons and the way forward**

1. Imperialism will go to any extent to make sure that their absolute control in the CAR is maintained, even if it means that the lives of some SA soldiers and some unemployed youth co-opted as Seleca-LRA rebels, are sacrificed;
  2. A few pennies in bribes (BEE shares in imperialist companies) is enough to make the ANC govt send the SA troops as free private security to US and French companies to continue to plunder Africa;
  3. Clause 201 of this supposed 'best Constitution in the world' was torn up by the ANC govt as President Zuma failed to inform parliament of the detail and purpose and duration of sending the SA troops to the CAR.
  4. The use of SA troops to defend US assets in the CAR is illegal in terms of this Constitution and troops would be in their rights to refuse to be deployed on such 'missions'. The dangerous precedent is that, in the rest of Africa, when the masses rise up against super-exploitation by imperialists, the SA troops will be sent again and again to shoot down the masses and to protect companies that are starving the continent. SA Security Forces Union, SASFU, called for more troops to be sent to CAR to defend the masses (Cosatu leaders supported this), but the SA troops are not being sent to protect the masses but to protect the very companies that are raping the CAR and will continue to plunder and carry off its wealth. Have the SA troops in CAR since 2007, improved the living and working conditions of the masses there? NO. Here we see the real meaning of BRICS- where imperialism is discredited, the BRICS forces will be sent as news agencies to protect the same imperialism, for the payment of a few pieces of silver.
  5. Were the 1000 troops who were brave enough to march, unarmed, to the Union buildings in 2009 right about serious misgivings about the capitalist leadership of the army? Yes. Even though these troops have won their reinstatement in the courts, the heads of the army, under instructions from imperialism, has refused, for the past 4 years to allow them back. Now, we can see why: imperialism wants to keep out soldiers who would question illegal instructions. Clause 199.6 of the Constitution says: '*No member of any security service may obey a manifestly illegal order*'. Imperialism wants to crush the soldiers unions; they want to scrap this clause because capitalism is under threat and they want an army that is prepared to shoot down any protestor if a capitalist asset is under threat, even if this capitalist asset is based on the most brutal super-exploitation of the working class.
- SA and French troops out of CAR now!
  - for mineworker and poor peasant committees in the CAR to form the basis of a workers' government
  - for the expropriation of all imperialist and capitalist assets in the CAR, without compensation to the capitalists, and to be placed under workers' control
  - for the immediate reinstatement of the 1000 soldiers
  - Defend the soldier unions
  - for the withdrawal of SA troops from all other countries



- for the expulsion of US and French troops from Africa
- No confidence in the heads of the military and the Commander in Chief of the Defence force. Justice for the fallen troops sacrificed by the SA govt for imperialism.
- For a federation of Socialist workers' states of Africa based on workers and poor peasant committees
- For revolutionary working class parties in Africa as part of a revolutionary International (for us the path to refound the Fourth International).

We call for mass protests at all SA govt institutions- parliament, Union buildings, provincial governments and municipal governments, as well as SA embassies around the world.

28.3.2013 **Workers International Vanguard Party** [www.workersinternational.org.za](http://www.workersinternational.org.za)

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*The SA soldiers were sacrificed for whose interests?*

## DEFEND THE FARMWORKERS!

From the minute the govt declared that they would legislate R105 per day for farmworkers, with a minimal increase over the next 2 years, the farm bosses, urged on by the ANC leaders, began appealing for exemption from paying even this small amount. In addition the farm bosses began a campaign to dismiss the worker leaders who stood at the head of the farm revolt. Not only this, but on many farms, the commercial farmers have launched waves of retrenchment and threats of retrenchments.

If we look at the total farm costs and how little the increase will affect food prices, these attacks on the farm workers can only be seen as a political attack by the capitalist class to beat down the entire working class, to retain the super-exploitation that capitalist relations in Southern Africa is based on.

**There is no need for any retrenchments or dismissals**



Total farm expenses in 2011 was R147 bn, of which the wage bill for seasonal and casual workers, numbering 391 000, was R2.4 Bn or 1.6%. Thus farmers would have to 'find' an extra R1.2 Bn. Assuming they do not find it, then some food stuff may rise by 0.8% to accommodate the increase of daily farmworker's wage from R69 to R105.

The fulltime workers and staff, numbering 431 000, earn an average of R139 per day and thus are mostly not affected by the new wage determination. Also many food sectors are already highly mechanised and workers earn far above even R150 per day.

Thus for every R100 you pay for **some** food items, the price would have to go up by 80 cents, or more simply: for every R10 the price should go up by 8 cents, hardly something that would push the food industry into bankruptcy.

But food processors and retailers receive the bulk of the money of the food price: Out of every R10 they receive R7.50, the commercial farmers receive R2.25 and the farmworkers receive 25 cents (assuming they get the increase).

The food processors and retailers and the wine producers and retailers need to be forced to open their books- they and the commercial farmers should be compelled to absorb this slight increase in expense. There is no justification for a single worker to be retrenched.

### **The way forward**

The food and farmworker and rural workers organizations and unions are fighting against this onslaught by the capitalist class on their own. This attack by the capitalists is not only to beat down the farm workers but to intimidate the working class in the entire region, if not also set an international example, it is a political attack as one of the measures to stop the world wide revolt of the working class.

We call on workers and members of Cosatu, Nactu, Consawu, Fedusa and independent unions to mobilise for provincial and national general strikes, pickets and protest, targeting the commercial farmers, the large processors and large retailers such as Pick 'n Pay, Woolworths, Shoprite-Checkers-OK, Spar.

We call on the international working class to rally to the support of the farm workers- they are putting food on your table while the giant banks and retailers take the lion's share of the wealth.

- Reinststate the dismissed farm workers!
- No exemption for any commercial farmer!
- For farm worker committees on all commercial farms
- For anti-high price committees in working class communities and all workplaces
- Prepare the way for a general strike against high food prices, against farm evictions and dismissals and against low wages on the farms
- Expropriate all the commercial farms, retailers and processors, without compensation to the capitalists, placing these under workers control.
- Forward to a workers' government based on grassroots workers committees, in working class areas and workplaces.

Amended 30.3.2013



# We expose how Sasol and the ANC government work together to keep the petrol price high

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By Wed 6 March 2013, petrol went up by a massive 81 cents. Taxi fare will go up; the food gangsters (Pick 'n Pay, Shoprite and other large retailers) will hike their prices; virtually every item will go up in price. More of the working class will starve and die from hunger. Yet the petrol price should be ***much lower***. The ANC govt and the Sasol bosses work together to keep the price ***high***. We expose how they are working together against the masses:

## What should the price be?

Out of every 10 litres of petrol sold in SA, Sasol produces 4. The oil price at that time was about \$113 per barrel while Sasol produces a barrel at between \$10- \$15 per barrel. Sasol produces petrol for most of Gauteng and the surrounding areas yet they sell it to the public at the international price- this is 7 times higher than the cost at which they produce it. This means that a litre of petrol in Gauteng should cost R1.27 but it is sold at over R9.00 (**excluding taxes**). If we add the general fuel levy and the Road Accident Fund tax then petrol in Gauteng should be about **R4.27** per litre but it is sold at over R12.00. The price of fuel inland is charged according to a formula as if the oil comes from a major port, yet the oil for Gauteng comes mostly from Sasol- so the price in Gauteng should be even lower than anywhere else in the region. If we spread out the value of what Sasol produces for the general consumer throughout the country, then the price of petrol should be about **R6.00** per litre, plus R3.00 govt taxes. Thus taxi fare, food and other items should actually come down in price. *The ANC govt does not want to reduce these prices. Why?*

## Sasol before 1994

The fore-runner of the DA passed legislation in 1947 through a Mineral and Petroleum Act, to set up Sasol. The idea was to set up a cash cow for Anglo American to supply coal for the next few decades to produce petrol from coal. At the time, petrol was relatively cheaper, at much less than \$10 per barrel while the cost of producing a barrel of oil from coal was about \$15. The billions to construct Sasol 1 and the subsidy to Sasol for the higher cost of production were carried by the taxpayer (ie it was funded through the exploitation of the masses). The masses subsidized Sasol through the 1950's and the 1960's until 1973 when the price shot up above \$15 per barrel. This was also a subsidy to Anglo American who had a secure market for selling huge amounts of coal to Sasol, a completely artificial business as it was cheaper, then, to make plastics directly from crude oil rather than from first turning coal to crude oil then into plastics and other by-products. The subsidy which Sasol received in this period and the greater profits for Anglo American made from extra coal sales only, could have built 100 000 houses a year and several fully funded public hospitals and clinics. If we also consider that it costs more than R100bn today to build just one Oil-from –coal plant, **the total subsidy received by Sasol from the 1950's to 1973 and the inflated profits of Anglo American from extra coal sales in this period could have provided decent homes for all and free, quality health care for all by 1973. There was no need for any person to live in a shack nor for anyone to die from poor health facilities or lack of access to health care. Yet these funds were carried off year after year by the US banks and Anglo American.** After 1948 Sasol also had the function of providing Afrikaner capitalists a stake in the exploitation of the masses on behalf of Anglo American and other monopoly capitalists. The apartheid regime had a clause that if the price of oil went above \$30 per barrel, then Sasol would pay a 'windfall tax' (an



extra tax because Sasol would be making massive profits of more than 100%). The price of petrol, up until the year 1990, only rarely went above \$30 per barrel, so Sasol did not pay much windfall tax.

Sasol 1 was built through forced removals of the masses who were then dumped down-wind (in the direct line of the pollution from the production site). Sasol 1 was set up through technology from the USA (which had been taken from the defeated Nazi Germany). Thus US imperialism was involved from the start in Sasol.

The real cost of producing oil from coal or gas is higher than \$16 per barrel, when we consider the negative impact of coal- and oil from coal production. The apartheid regime helped Sasol and Anglo American make huge profits by not compelling them to pay for the sicknesses caused by this dirty technology. For example, in 2001, just from Sasolburg petrochemical plants, there were 42 000 tons of volatile organic compounds set free into the air. These pollutants are linked with causing anaemia, leukaemia and other cancers; 22 000 tons of Hydrogen Sulphide and 26 000 tons of Sulphur Dioxide were also released into the air in this year - these pollutants are linked with asthma and respiratory problems. All of these together are also linked with impacting on weather patterns.

Yet Anglo American and the apartheid regime turned a blind eye to this, after all, in their eyes, it was only expendable black people getting sick.

In 1990, when the apartheid regime was seeing its last days, Sasol was privatised. Today the major shareholders are the US banks, JP Morgan Chase, the bank of New York, Mellon Bank and some European banks.

### **Sasol since 1994, the era of the ANC democratic govt**

While other locally made goods have had their subsidies taken away, Sasol continued (and still continues) to get subsidies for chemical by-products. In 1996 the Mandela govt signed an agreement with Sasol that they would be subsidized (as in the days of apartheid) if the oil price fell below \$16 per barrel. Indeed, during Jan 1998 to June 1999 the price did drip to below \$16 and Sasol received their subsidy from workers sweat and blood, thanks to the ANC govt. The trade-off was that Sasol was supposed to create 50 000 jobs. After 1999 when the price rose above \$16, Sasol went back on their promise. Even by today, those jobs are nowhere to be seen. The ANC govt has never challenged Sasol over the pollution and sickness and early deaths caused by Sasol nor about their failure to deliver on the promised 50 000 jobs. The ANC deal with Sasol was supported by the Cosatu leaders in their so-called beneficiation policy. Cosatu leaders have failed to challenge Sasol nor the ANC government about Sasol's broken promises.

By 2006 when the oil price was shooting above \$60 per barrel, even a govt task team, embarrassed by the huge profits being made by Sasol through import parity pricing (producing, in this case, a barrel of oil at \$10 - \$15 per barrel but selling it at international price of \$113 currently), recommended a token 'windfall tax'. Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, with the backing of the entire Mbeki regime, opposed this. That year, for a job well done to the capitalists, the Mail & Guardian gave Manuel another A rating.

Over the past ten years Sasol level of profit has more than doubled. After 2008 when millions of workers lost their jobs through a recession, Sasol was increasing its profit by over 20% each year. Sasol has a presence in over 17 countries, including Central African Republic, India and China, thanks to the many billions stolen from the masses in Africa. **From 2006 up to 2012, just from the extra R15bn every year that Sasol has been getting from charging world oil prices instead of \$15 per barrel, 2.6 million houses could have been built; in other words, just from these extra profits in these 7 years from Sasol, homelessness could**



have been wiped out. The ANC govt allow the US banks which control Sasol to carry off these billions and at the same time leaves a billion Rand of the 2012 housing budget unspent. Let the masses live and die in shacks, as long as the US banks can make their profits. This is the message from the ANC and Cosatu leaders. If we consider ALL the profits that Sasol is making, then besides wiping out homelessness, free education for all could have been achieved, with still having lots of funds left over.

Sasol's first empowerment deal was in 1997 with the setting up of Exel petrol stations. The Minerals and Energy Minister at the time was Penuel Maduna. Today Maduna is the head of BEE at Sasol, and heads up Tshwarisano which is in a joint partnership with Sasol, Africa Energy Resources and Engen in a joint venture called Uhambo, Southern Africa's largest liquid fuel business. Africa Energy Resources is wholly owned by Worldwide Africa Investments which is headed up by Thuli Zuma. **Here we have the reason why Sasol gets away with artificially high prices and continued killing off of the masses through their pollutants- the ANC leadership have been bought off by Anglo American and the US banks- they have a stake in the capitalist system and the continued exploitation of the masses. Sasol is also one of many monopolies that sustain labour brokers and super-exploitation.**

**The Cosatu leaders know all this but in their recent CEC at the end of February they have called once again for workers to mobilise for a 2014 election victory for the ANC! Can such a leadership lead a fight against high prices and for workers' demands?**

We should not be calling for the working class to be divided, such as for some townships of Sasolburg to not be under Parys. We should be calling for the disbanding of the provinces and for the wealth to be centralised so that all working class areas, be they urban or rural should get the same resources, the same development, the same services. Let us set up high price action committees in every area and workplace to mobilise for protests against the government.

- For the immediate lowering of the petrol price in SA and the region
- For the immediate lowering of all prices
- For Sasol and Anglo American to be compelled to pay for the death and sickness of the masses affected by their pollutants since Sasol was built in the 1950's
- For steps to minimise the pollution at all Sasol plants
- Expropriate Sasol , without compensation, place it under workers' control
- For the phasing out of Sasol and its replacement with solar, wind and hydropower and other alternative, non-toxic methods
- For Cosatu to break with the capitalist ANC govt
- For the setting up of a revolutionary working class party, nationally, regionally and internationally
- Forward to a workers government based on councils of workers delegates from all working places and working class areas.

3.3.2013 amended 30.3.2013

**Workers International Vanguard Party**

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## Party of reform or *Revolution*?



### **Our principle is revolution not parliamentary elections**

21.3.2013 [www.workersinternational.org.za](http://www.workersinternational.org.za)

The draft principles of the Workers and Socialist Party (WASP) are based only on parliamentary elections. Our principle should be to do everything possible to advance the Socialist revolution. To us elections are a tactic, not a principle. The 1<sup>st</sup> WASP principle is rejection of corrupt politicians and parties; in other words, it implies if politicians are honest then this parliament will lead us to workers' demands. This is not true. No capitalist parliament has ever brought about Socialism. Our fight is to oppose and expose this capitalist parliament.

### **We need a workers' government based on grassroots workers' committees**

The Marikana uprising with the mass strikes, occupations and setting up of independent workers' committees that united workers irrespective of union and political affiliation, shows the type of independent organization needed to lead the working class to take power and is indeed the embryo of how a workers' government would look like, uniting delegates from mines and workplaces with delegates from the working class communities. The Marikana uprising shows the masses are turning away from parliament, not turning towards it. Marikana shows the need for disbanding the police, the need for workers' self defence committees and the perspective of arming the masses.

### **Only a workers' government can expropriate the mines, commercial farms, banks and big business**

The first point of the WASP Manifesto talks about nationalisation. Let's be frank, even the Cosatu and SACP leaders talk about this in speeches on public holidays. Who is going to nationalise? The ANC government? Only the working class, establishing its own government, through revolutionary means, will expropriate the commanding heights, without compensation to the capitalist and place these under workers' control. Against the current dictatorship of the capitalists we need to counter-pose the dictatorship of the working class through its own organs of self-rule, which will suppress the imperialist counter-revolution.

### **We need a real preparation for a General strike, not a 1-day token action**

What is the objective of mobilising for a 1 day strike? What happens after this? Cosatu leaders do this all the time for workers to blow off steam and then they sit with the bosses and the government and sign away the demands of the masses. The calling of a general strike must have a definite aim, namely preparing the ground for the working class to take power into its own hands. It is not to be called at the drop of a hat but needs careful preparation and examination of the conditions and balance of forces. A Workers' party should have as a principle, the participation in and attempt to win leadership of any, even partial struggle of the masses. It is out of this groundwork and the ongoing politicization of the masses, the building of structures of the Party, that the ground is laid for revolution.

### **We need real proletarian (working class) internationalism, not nationalism**

Anglo American dominates the entire Southern Africa. There can be no question of fighting for the expropriation of Anglo American only in South Africa. Our struggle is immediately linked to the struggle for workers' power and Socialism in the entire Southern Africa. At the same time our fight is inextricably linked to the working class taking power in the imperialist centres such as the USA and the UK. The SA regime sends troops to the DRC and Central African Republic, among others, to assist imperialism in exploiting and looting these countries. SA mercenaries fought in Iraq and in Libya



to prop up imperialism. Anglo American sends most diamonds from SA, Namibia and Botswana to Israel. The high food prices, the high unemployment, the low wages, the privatization of electricity, health, social services, schooling, etc, are part of the global capitalist attack on the masses. We are part of the world working class battalions and we need to take our place in this global class war. We need a clearly defined revolutionary programme, then we can consider our tactic of the coming elections and how to expose it.



*Farmworkers on the march to parliament, against dismissals, evictions, low wages 23.3.2013*

## Mamphela Ramphela- Agent for imperialism-capitalism

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South Africa under 'apartheid' had labour recruitment agents/agencies, which supplied newly developing mines and industrial development with cheap labour. The so-called 'Homelands', placed under the control of chiefs; were essentially huge labour reserves, with a well-developed legal infrastructure to secure its maintenance. Over time this evolved into what we know today as 'labour brokers' which translated into increased negative impact on workers. This practice was successfully challenged in the Namibian courts; which forced the SA Minister of Labour Membathisi Mdladlana, followed by Cosatu and Fedusa leaders to , in words, support the Namibian ruling( up to day neither Cosatu nor Fedusa have mounted a serious concerted and sustained effort against this vicious, anti-working class practice, ie labour broking).

Mamphela Ramphela and her vision 'to form a party political project' comes as the latest protégé among many who have come before her; supported by imperialism-capitalism, to help secure its interests in the African sub-continent. Her arrival at this time has a lot to do with the fact that the ANC which has been the main anchor (for imperialism-capitalism) in this area over the last 2 decades, is rapidly losing credibility among the working class. Her usefulness includes the fact that she would be one more factor to divert the working class from its mission to deal with its mortal enemy. That she had the celebrated romance with Steve Biko (whose political philosophy had its progressive features but ultimately proved limited in uniting the broader working class) that she can now say ' I have never been a member of a political party, nor aspired to political office' leaves one to ask, just what has she been about?

Among her achievements, which demonstrates the main focus of the lady's energies, is the introduction of labour brokers at UCT, where workers' pension rights and other benefits were wiped out and pay levels halved. Hundreds of



workers were dumped by Mamphela, overnight, into starvation. Given the iconic status gained (with the help of the bourgeois media) through her association with the Black Consciousness Movement, brought hordes of opportunist elements (many inside the ANC) jumping onto the band wagon. Mamphela was one of the pioneers of labour brokers in recent history. For this she was rewarded with a job at the World Bank, as its first female Managing Director. She is listed by Forbes as one of Africa's 9 richest women. The World is a key promoter of labour brokers and destruction of jobs and education on a global scale.

According to WHO OWNS WHOM, she earned R3.8 million in 2011 just for directorships, and has been awarded R1.6 million in shares from 2 of the companies. She was a non-executive director at Anglo American from 2006-2012, and at Mediclinic from 2005 to 2012; and was Chairman at Goldfields from 2010. During the height of the historic mineworkers strike last year, she was the one who threatened the strikers with mass retrenchments, though mechanisation. A more dedicated servant of the international capitalists would be hard to find. Some of her personal wealth, according to Forbes, has come from a BEE private equity firm Circle Capital Ventures, which according to her son Hlumelo Biko's website and biography, experienced returns of R1.6 Billion over an 8 year period from an initial R100 million investment. She started the company with her son, but according to Biko, she resigned from Circle's Board 3 years ago. (this does not mean that her shares are not bringing in huge profits on an ongoing basis).

Mamphela Ramphela places big emphasis on bringing changes to the education system and asks us to ignore that in the major imperialist economies with presumably the best systems in the world, there is today growing unemployment. What are we to do? In a world dominated by capitalism-imperialism, education cannot mean anything other but that we should aspire to be cogs in the vast network of the system's tentacles which encompasses the planet. With her history as shown, the working class of this country should avoid this lady like the plague; she is bad news. With Agang, the capitalist vultures are indeed circling.

Ruling classes over the world have academics like her at their command in so called 'think tanks'. They are designed to try and thwart and misdirect the hatred of the masses away from overthrowing this exploitative and oppressive capitalist system as they have temporarily succeeded in North Africa and the Middle East, for the moment. But the seething hatred, which is still boiling around the world, remains a threat to the whole capitalist system. Imperialism is desperate to divide the working class to pre-empt the formation of a revolutionary working class party; they need to create more vehicles with which to trap the anger of the masses in a dead-end. Such is Agang.

The essential question to answer- when will the revolutionary left succeed in forming a revolutionary working class party in SA, the region and internationally? The situation is crying out for it.



***Farmworkers on the march against capitalist oppression and exploitation- they need broader solidarity***



## Civic rd informal settlement shows that the City is failing in its civic duty

The City of Cape Town claims that 'this city works for you'. Yet the pace of housing is so slow that homelessness grows every year. When the pain of over-crowding and high rentals become too much to bear, many have taken to occupying vacant land to erect shacks. The City has a huge budget for 'anti-land invasion' and people who occupy land are dealt with brutally, at pain of severe injury. The City claims that there is a housing list and the squatters are opportunistically trying to get ahead of others on the list. The case of the Civic rd settlement shows the lie of the City's claims.

You know that our settlement is in existence for over 70 years. The Pelican Park project is in a process of being built soon and yet the 5 families of this longest existing informal settlement have not been accommodated neither by the premier nor by the City. I am now living here for 44 years and others are here for over 55,42,30,24years. The 5<sup>th</sup> generation is growing up here. More than 10 presidents later we are still living here and nobody can help us. I did even write an email to the President but nobody responded to us. The Premier sent us from pillar to post. Councillor Sonnenberg was supposed to contact us but we are still waiting. My father had to live here for 57 years before receiving a house from the City.

The price of housing goes up because housing is scarce, so we can say that the City is really working for the banks who deal in home loans. The housing list is just another excuse to keep us cooped up like chickens in a battery. Recently the Budget came out but Eskom and the large construction companies get trillions for 'infrastructure' development but there is no plan for decent houses all.

If the City cannot do its civic duty to provide decent houses for all, then it should disband and let the masses take over.

Yours in Struggle. Lorraine Heunis ph 0745131381

Civic rd informal settlement , Lotus River , Cape Town





# The big retail meat fraud

---

Upon reading the journal article on the fraudulent substitution of undeclared species in meat products, we find the matter much more serious than we first thought. It would be wise for people who are concerned about your health to **immediately** stop buying the following products from all the main retailers (Pick 'n Pay, Spar, Shoprite Checkers and Woolworths):

- mince meat products
- burger patties
- deli meats
- raw sausage
- biltong (dried meats).

1. In all of these products, the one undeclared additive that occurs most often is pork; [52% of the sausage; 38% of the mince, 32% of the deli meats, 30% of the burger patties, 10% of the biltong]
2. Even in pork and turkey products there is the presence of beef [probably low quality unmarketable beef];
3. For these meat products that do not list allergens, there has been found the presence of soya and gluten; thus persons thinking they are buying products that are allergen free, are at serious risk. 90% of all the fatal allergic reactions has been caused by among others, soya and gluten.
4. The presence of donkey meat is not to be taken lightly- it is not a product that goes through the strict health procedures at the abattoirs. Thus the killing of the donkeys and the preparation of the meat must have been done under unsanitary conditions. Even a small amount poses a health risk. Don't be fooled- sometimes even 'quality beef sausage' is the one that contains the donkey meat.
5. The cynicism of the large retailers is shown by the greater incidence of fraud in contaminated meat in the Eastern Cape and KZN, where the masses are more impoverished than in other areas. 90% of the samples from these regions contained contaminated meat.
6. The Chinese wave has also not left the meat industry untouched. The Asian water buffalo has been imported, most likely from China and used as a cheap substitute in beef products. Who knows where and how these buffalo were killed, most probably in unsanitary conditions. As the major retailers were responsible for the Chinese slave imports in the clothing sector, it would be safe to assume that these are the same culprits now, again. In any event, they need to be openly investigated.
7. Springbok biltong was found to be Blesbok.

## **A proposed way forward**

1. All products containing donkey and water buffalo meat should be seized and destroyed due to the health risk;



2. All meat products of the main retailers should be labelled as contaminated and possibly containing allergens, possibly containing pork and other undeclared substances- with this proviso they should be sold off at a fraction of the declared price, if not given away.
3. There should be mass protests at the main retailers, calling for them to be expropriated without compensation and placed under workers control- for the immediate lowering of the price of all meat products. The biggest farming sector is that of livestock- here we see the fraud of the commercial farmers claiming they cannot afford better wages for farm workers when they are the biggest frauds, working in collaboration with the major retailers. For the immediate expropriation of all commercial farms, without compensation, to be placed under workers control.
4. Open the books of the commercial farmers and retailers to trace who is responsible for the meat fraud and the levels of profit made out of this.
5. Open the books of the mines to investigate the trillions taken out over the past 40 years through mislabelling by Anglo American and others. For the seizure of the mines, without compensation, to be placed under workers control.

### Workers International Vanguard Party

28.2.2013 [www.workersinternational.org.za](http://www.workersinternational.org.za) email [workersinternational@gmail.com](mailto:workersinternational@gmail.com) ph 0822020617

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***It's 10 years since Rachel Corrie was bulldozed to death by US-backed Zionist demolition forces***



## The creation of Israel was about social control and continued hegemony over the masses by imperialism

We respond to the article, *Israel's apartheid label is a slanderous fabrication*' (Cape Argus, March 13<sup>th</sup> 2013), by Ben Levitas, Chairperson of the South African Zionist Federation.

In typical middle class fashion Mr Levitas tries to muddy the waters and divert attention away from the fundamentals of a very necessary discussion. Rather appropriately, Levitas admits that he was an apartheid-era author of textbooks. In the same vein that the old apartheid regime attempted to erase the history of the African masses and portray us as subhuman and incapable of independent thought, Levitas attempts to paint a similar picture of the Palestinians.

The United Nations website on refugees (<http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/refugees/>) lists the Palestinians as the biggest refugee group in the world. 4.7 million of the 43 million refugees in 2010, are Palestinian. Simply put, 1 in 10 refugees worldwide is a Palestinian.

The UN goes further to explain that their Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East was set up in 1949 for 58 camps in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Gaza and West Bank. The simple question is, where did these refugees come from? It is rather obvious that they came from the area which is geographically defined as Israel. From the date of the setting up of the refugee camps in the above areas, we can deduce that these millions of Palestinians were expelled from their homes in 1948 and subsequent months.

Levitas tries to obliterate this fact by arguing that the millions of Palestinian refugees should be integrated into the surrounding states. He even implies that these states are in the wrong for refusing to absorb the Palestinian refugees as citizens. Everyone else is at fault, according to Levitas, except the Israeli state.

How can Israel claim to be a 'democracy', as Levitas claims, when 4.7 million of its citizens are not only denied, for generations, the right to return home, but denied participation in every aspect of Israeli life?

Levitas raises the 'right' of Israelis to the territory that was Judea and Samaria of 2000 years ago. If one examines the maps from this time, one can see that this not only includes Gaza but also the entire West Bank right up to the river Jordan. What Levitas is thus arguing for, is the obliteration of everything Palestinian. Is this not promotion of ethnic cleansing? The presence of 23 Israeli settlements in the West Bank is a confirmation that the Levitas view, of the obliteration of anything Palestinian, is widely held by the Israeli ruling elite. Indeed, how can there be any talk of a contiguous 'Palestinian state', when all that is left, has more holes in it than the old patchwork of the Bophuthatswana bantustan.

If Israel was a democracy the first principle should have been for everyone who had been staying in that geographic area that they claim for themselves or who was expelled by force, to elect delegates, say about 1 per 500 people, to convene a Constituent Assembly, to write its Constitution and determine its form of state. Thus, not only the Palestinians in the refugee camps should be included in such a process but also the Palestinians in Gaza and West bank, something which Israel refuses to do.

Levitas claims that Israel is a Jewish state. By definition therefore, this means that anyone who is Muslim or Christian or has any other religious belief, is a second class citizen.



Israel claims to welcome any Jew from anywhere in the world as its citizen. Yet there are regular imprisonment and expulsions of African Jews from Israel. Further, when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1975, it was Palestinian fighters who protected the Synagogues in southern Lebanon from Israeli attacks. (at least one of the synagogues was bombed by the Israeli forces). There are also Jewish groups that oppose Zionism and the state of Israel. Thus the basis of the conflict is not religious at all.

In the wake of the Second World (imperialist) war there were several countries that were artificially divided up, as Stalinism and imperialism formed a united front against the threat of revolution from the masses. Thus Germany was divided in East and West; Palestine was divided into Israel and a rump 'Palestine'. The history of the working class around the world, resisting capitalism in the capitalist crisis of the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's, put the overturn of capitalist relations on the order of the day. In Palestine the general strikes of the 1930's threatened British capitalist rule. Not only was historic Palestine balkanised but Israel was artificially created as imperialist's policeman in the region to directly terrorise and subjugate the masses. The rule by the NP regime in SA, since 1948, ushered in a dictatorship which imperialism used to terrorise the masses in the entire Southern Africa.

The 1913 Land Act in SA was social engineering by the predecessor of the DA with the support of the old NP. This Act restricted 87% of the masses to 13% of the land- creating tribal slave labour camps- effecting the old imperialist policy of 'divide and rule'. While tribal chiefs were supported in SA, like Matanzima, Sebe, Gqozo, etc, in the rump of West Bank and Gaza, the parallel Bantustan structure, the PA (Palestinian Authority) was created. Abu Mazen, the current Palestinian Bantustan leader, was recently in the USA asking for more weapons to control the Palestinian masses. The police of the PA are trained and armed courtesy of Israel, just as the old bantustans in SA were supported by the old NP regime. After the 1950's when the liberation movements were smashed in SA, imperialist companies had a massive investment campaign here. For several decades, the US govt gives Israel annually about \$2 Billion, primarily for armaments. Most of the diamonds mined in SA, Namibia and Botswana, is sent by Anglo American to Israel. This is an artificial mechanism to economically prop up the Israeli police state. More precisely, the declassed unemployed and impoverished Jew from around the world were gathered in Israel to act as the base of fascist Israel. It is ironic that during the Second World war, the US state denied access to millions of impoverished Jews who were fleeing the pogroms in Europe and in particular the Nazi terror.

We are not arguing for the expulsion of a single Israeli from their homes, nor even for a single settlement to be torn down. Let the people who are currently living in the area of historic Palestine, together with the 4.7 million Palestinians in the refugee camps, elect their own delegates to a Constituent Assembly, and determine their own future. Studies have shown that a full return of all the Palestinian refugees is physically and practically possible, even if many might not get back to their exact location of their original homes.

In 2011 hundreds of thousands of, mostly, young Israelis, started tent cities and mass protests, copying that of the Tahrir square uprisings in Egypt. They were revolting against unemployment and the high cost of housing- they were not demanding the demolition of Palestinian homes, nor for confiscation of Palestinian land. These protestors identified the Israeli state as their enemy, that it represented an elite, a capitalist class, and not the interest of the ordinary Israeli. For years now, the joint movement of Israeli and Palestinian against the Israeli regime, has been growing. Such resistance has been growing also on an international scale. This week marks 10 years since US activist, Rachel Corrie, was bulldozed to death by an Israeli demolition team hell bent on destroying a Palestinian home. Thousands of Palestinians are being detained without trial in the Zionist prisons. Many are on hunger strike, like Samer Issawi, and in danger of dying. Recently, we have seen the



introduction of separate buses for Palestinians and Israelis. Palestinian Arab Israelis have suffered decades of restriction of rights.

In 1989 the Berlin wall fell and Germany was re-unified. Is it not time that the apartheid wall and fences in and around the West Bank and around Gaza, be torn down? Is it not time to dismantle the over 400 military checkpoints in the West Bank? Is it not time for the 4.7 million Palestinian refugees to be allowed to go home?

Why does the ANC govt still maintain economic, social and diplomatic links with fascist Israel? Why does the Argus give carte blanche to forces which stand for ethnic cleansing of Palestinians?

18.3.2013

## On the DA's planned new 'Nuclear' city.

The DA has come up with another no-brainer (they must have left their brains at home when dreaming up this one). They want to build a new 'city' for 200 000 people directly next to Koeberg Nuclear power station. In this way, if there is ever a nuclear accident, the first ones to be wiped out will be these lucky residents. Who is it for? Well, according to the City, for those working class people who are without a home and us refugees from the Eastern Cape. Eskom says that installation of electricity infrastructure will take at least 8 years- so consider this- even though this new 'City' will be next to a power station, the residents will be in the dark! This is apartheid social engineering at its worst. We recall that the most of the old NP join the DA. As this will not be funded by the City, we would like to know the names of the banks that will be sucking the masses dry in this entrepreneurial misadventure. We would also like to know if the ground has been tested to see if it is radioactive-free.

There is sufficient land and vacant buildings within the CBD and surrounds to cater for the housing backlog. The City plan to enrich the banks is even more sickening when considering that over R900 million of the recent national housing Budget was unspent. If we consider that the 30-odd bond housing units in Joe Slovo has been lying vacant for years, how will the City hope to fill this mega bond-City? The very ones who are homeless are the ones with the lowest pay or who are unemployed.

Our demand remains for integrated, low rental, decent houses for all, close to places of work, with exemptions for the low paid, unemployed and pensioners. This new housing scam is another reason why the banks should be expropriated without compensation to the capitalists, centralised and placed under workers control.



***The New Horizons occupation before the City evicted the masses from this vacant land***



## ***Internationale***

**Words by Eugene Pottier (Paris 1871) Music by Pierre Degeyter (1888)**

**Arise ye workers from your slumbers  
Arise ye prisoners of want  
For reason in revolt now thunders  
And at last ends the age of cant.  
Away with all your superstitions  
Servile masses arise, arise  
We'll change henceforth the old tradition  
And spurn the dust to win the prize.**

**So comrades, come rally  
And the last fight let us face  
The Internationale unites the human race.  
So comrades, come rally  
And the last fight let us face  
The Internationale unites the human race.**

**No saviour from on high delivers  
No faith have we in prince or peer  
Our own right hand the chains must shiver  
Chains of hatred, greed and fear  
E'er the thieves will out with their booty  
And give to all a happier lot.  
Each at the forge must do their duty  
And we'll strike while the iron is hot.**

The Internationale was written to celebrate the Paris Commune of March-May 1871: the first time workers took state power into their own hands. Representatives were mandated on policy questions by their electors, they were recallable at any time and were paid wages that reflected those of their constituents. The distinction between legislative and executive arms of government was abolished.



# ***The Spark***

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