



# International Workers' Organizer

Voice of the International Leninist Trotskyist Fraction

*Special  
Edition*

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# A F R I C A

Out with the class collaborationist leaders! Break with the ANC-SACP government of millionaires/billionaires!

FORWARD TO THE GENERAL STRIKE!



Mayday 2010 statement of the FLTI (Internacional Leninist Trotskyist Fraction)

*To the workers of Zimbabwe, South Africa, the entire African continent, the workers in the heart of imperialism and the world over.*

**Lessons of the SA  
Municipal strike**

**Cosatu leaders call for  
'labour peace' during the  
world cup**

# Introduction

On Wed 1 Sept 2010 the masses in Mozambique burst into an uprising over rising bread, water and electricity. The masses organised a general strike against the increased starvation that the crisis of imperialism imposed on the proletariat. The masses rose against the Stalinist regime (of Frelimo) and over the heads of the trade union bureaucracy. In the street battles that followed the police killed at least 13 people including 2 children, while well over 400 were injured.

The SA regime immediately imposed a siege on the uprising, closing the borders and closing their embassy (thus preventing any of the resistance leaders from seeking refuge from the murderous Frelimo government). At least 6 of the resistance leaders were arrested while hundreds of workers were imprisoned as well.

Thus the SA and Mozambican regimes acted as direct agents of US imperialism in crushing the proletarian uprising. Imperialism acted swiftly, keeping the troops off the streets as they were fearful of another Madagascar, which this time could spread throughout the region. The bureaucracy of the Cosatu unions moved quickly to suspend the general strike of the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, in support of the public sector strike, but which was in reality another rebellion against the austerity measures of US imperialism; thus they left the Mozambican working class isolated and allowed their rebellion to be drowned in blood.

That the working class in South Africa managed to get a date set for a general strike against imperialism shows that the masses are breaking from the ANC-SACP bourgeois regime. With the discrediting of the Zanu-PF-MDC regime, and the overthrowal of the US puppet, Ravalomanana, in Madagascar, there is now a strong trend in the working class, breaking from the bourgeois regime and

strong elements of a tendency towards a pre-revolutionary situation across Southern Africa.

The world wheat price is controlled by US imperialism; the massive electricity increases have been imposed by US imperialism through their control over the SA regime. Even the privatization of water is driven by US imperialism. It must be added that French imperialism plays the junior partner of US imperialism in putting the crisis of capitalism onto the backs of the working class.

The treacherous leaders of the working class in the imperialist centres also isolate the revolution in Southern Africa by refusing to mobilise the working class on their home soil against their imperialist masters. To them this is just another 'riot' among the starving masses in 'under-developed' Africa or they act to isolate the revolution by preparing the ground for reformist 'anti-capitalist parties.

It is in these class battles that the Fourth International is being refounded. We present in this edition a selection of our recent interventions in the class struggle, for the eyes of the world working class.

## INTERNATIONAL LENINIST TROTSKYIST FRACTION

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# Out with the class collaborationist leaders! Break with the ANC-SACP government of millionaires/billionaires!

## FORWARD TO THE GENERAL STRIKE!

For the entire negotiations process and strike in the public sector, the ANC-SACP leaders in our unions have failed the working class! They must be removed now! First they postponed our struggle until after the world cup; then they lowered our wage demand to a miserable 8.6%; the Cosatu leaders were the ones to sell out even this demand by offering the government of millionaires/ billionaires that they should now only give us 7.5%; now they are roaming around the country trying to demoralise the strike and saying that we don't understand the government 'offer'. The Cosatu leaders have no problem with over R100 bn being handed over within a short space to the imperialists who built the 2010 stadiums over our exploitation; the trade union leaders have no problem with the imperialists getting R1000 bn for the Eskom scam 'build' programme (for power stations that we do not need); they have no problem with the high interest loans from the imperialist banks that get paid first by government, a total of R320 bn in 4 years; they have no problem that the government cannot even find the less than R2bn for our increase; among these leaders paid themselves a 100% increase last year while we were buckling under high food, transport, education and electricity prices. These leaders have ignored our mandate for a general strike against the high electricity increases. These leaders insult us by saying we do not understand the government's 'offer'. We understand very well the hunger and starvation while our leaders live in mansions in Sandton. What the leaders are saying is that they will ignore the workers' mandate for an immediate solidarity general strike. In other words, we cannot depend on this leadership to fight for our demands- they are collaborators with the capitalists; they must be removed now in order for the general strike against the imperialist, starvation policy of the government to go ahead! We must remove the enemy within our ranks! **Enough!**

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We are not weak, we are strong!

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The motor sector is out on strike for a 20%, many the mineworkers are coming on strike for 11%; all industrial sectors in Cosatu voted to come out in solidarity with us. We are not weak, we are strong. We must not allow the leaders to divide and demoralise us. After being so arrogant for a number of days, why did Mantashe come begging to the Cosatu CEC for a solution to the strike? He was sent because his imperialist masters were worried that the entire working class was going to unite against

their starvation policy. The President, back from his business trip for seeking profits for Anglo American in China, was instructed by the capitalists to try to end the strike before the unity of the entire working class happens in a general strike. No, we are not weak but strong!

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### The path to the general strike

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- First, we must unify our ranks and kick out the class collaborationist leaders; we need a revolutionary leadership, based on the strike committees; the immediate task is to convene a national meeting of the strike committees, which must include delegates from the entire industrial working class, to set a date for the solidarity general strike
- We must broaden the strike committees in each area to include employed workers from every street, delegates from the unemployed, delegates from the soldiers, delegates from the immigrant workers; let the street and block committees of the 1980's rise again; but this is not enough, broader strike committees must be set up in every workplace to prepare for the solidarity general strike; we need to call mass meetings of parent teachers students to spread the strike committees!
- We need to immediately consider the question of workers self-defence committees under the direct control of the strike committees (we see how the police have acted in our strike and how they act against our brothers and sisters in Mozambique)
- There needs to be strike committees in every industrial area, mine, shop, farm, every working class area that sends delegates to regional and national worker summit, to centralise the demands of the working class and to drive the general strike;

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### Proposed demands for the general strike:

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- R6000 minimum monthly wage; 8.6% increase, R1000 housing allowance; equalization of medical aid benefits;
- limit the salaries of managers. MP's and government ministers to that of an average skilled worker;



- the right of instant recall of any representative, be they councilor, MP, Minister
- equal pay for equal work (including immigrant workers)
- share all the work among all who can work, without loss of pay;
- wages should increase when prices increase;
- Expropriate all imperialist assets, the mines and banks, without compensation, place them under workers control;
- Expropriate the entire food sector, from the farms, to the food manufacturers to the giant retailers, without compensation, and place them under workers control;
- expropriate the private health care sector, without compensation, place under workers control; this will open the doors to free quality health care for all;
- renationalize, without compensation, all sectors that have been privatized, including the coal, iron ore and steel sectors;
- Down with the brutal, antiworker regimes of Mozambique, Swaziland and Lesotho; we call on all workers in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, in Swaziland and Lesotho to join in the general strike; for the setting up of strike committees in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Lesotho, which are nothing but slave camps for imperialism; the very same imperialism that keeps the working class in South Africa in chains; Down with the anti-worker regimes across Africa.



is a self-imposed lockout, a pacifist tactic, always tipping the struggle ultimately in the favour of the capitalists and therefore the imperialists. A general strike/occupation immediately poses the question of strike and factory committees; from here grows the basis for workers power. That is why the SACP so violently opposes real general strikes and at best will only support

stayaways to tire out the masses and then reach a settlement that keeps the working class in various levels of slavery.

The capitalists-imperialists are the ones who are starving us; that is why we need to confront them and their agents in government; that is why we need a general strike, not a stayaway. No more negotiations behind our backs! In short, the ANC-SACP has become the instrument of holding back the struggle for even the most basic democratic demands of the masses. At the same time, the only reliable force to drive these basic demands is the working class! That is why the centre of the indefinite general strike has to be the achievement of the basic democratic demands which can only be accomplished by the working class in power-no other class will stand up for this. **Break with the ANC-SACP government of millionaires/billionaires! Out the pro-capitalist leaders! Forward to the general strike! Forward to workers power!** Down with a Labour party that the fake left and Cosatu bureaucrats are preparing for the imperialists to help chain the working class once more! Forward to a revolutionary working class party as part of refounding a revolutionary International! Forward to a committee to refound the Fourth International!

Forward to the Federation of Socialist Workers states of Southern Africa!

WORKERS INTERNATIONAL VANGUARD LEAGUE: SA SECTION OF INTERNATIONAL LENINIST TROTSKYIST FRACTION.

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## A general strike, not a stayaway

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Why the SACP promotes stayaways is to atomise and isolate the strikers so that it is easier for the leadership to sellout the struggle; a stayaway opens workers to victimization as they are now isolated individuals instead of being a united mass; a stayaway demobilizes that masses instead of posing a united stance against the capitalists; a stayaway opens the door for scab labour to be used by the bosses; a strike is a contest for power- a strike/occupation would confront the bosses with a united mass at each workplace- the question of who the real power is, is placed on the agenda- ie the power of the workers who produce the wealth, or the parasitic capitalists who rule through the brute force of state power; if workers stay at home it gives the bosses strength; they have the capacity to wait out the strike. A stayaway

# Forward to a general strike in solidarity with the public sector strikers (and why we cannot trust the Cosatu and SACP leaders)

We salute the public sector workers, teaching and medical staff for taking the bold step on embarking on an indefinite strike against the Zuma-Nzimande-Thatcher regime; going on strike is never easy. We know that the actions of the ANC-SACP government, by rigidly offering to cut wages (7% is below workers' inflation), while they sit comfortable on their millionaire salaries, is really to blame. **We call for immediate mass meetings around the country with parents, communities, rank and file soldiers and students; the first objective is to force the Cosatu and Fedusa leaders to immediately give the 7-day notice for solidarity strikes in every sector, in effect to call a general strike in support of the public sector strike, and to organise mass marches and protests from the industrial working class in support of the strike;** the final settlement will set a precedent for all workers in the private sector; the only ones who are feeding and taking care of the unemployed are the employed workers, of which the public sector workers make up a huge part. The government is deliberately trying to drive a wedge between teachers, nursing staff, and public sector workers in general, on the one hand, and students, the parents (most of whom are from the working class) and the sickly and their families, on the other. Let us see where the ANC/SACP government really stands:

1. A government minister earns R1,6 million per year; after 5 years of 'work' they are guaranteed their salary for the rest of their lives; A public sector worker who earns R60 000 per annum will have to work 27 years just to earn what the Minister takes home in just one year (A worker who earns R40 000 per annum will have to work for 40 years); these highly paid millionaire/billionaire ministers are telling us that we must accept a lowly 7%; the millionaire SACP ministers, if they are really for the working class should have been the first to offer to cut their salaries to R200 000 per annum (the wage of an average skilled worker) but they cling to their capitalist privileges;
2. South Africa has the highest income inequality in the world; the government's 'offer' is thus entrenching this inequality;
3. Over 6 years the government has spent over R100 bn on the world cup; for example the Gautrain (the rich people's train) which started off as a R5 Bn project, ended up over R35 bn; from the world cup expenditure, the government could have wiped out the housing backlog; instead the US banks were the ones who (through their control of Murray & Roberts, Group 5, etc) made huge profits; government guaranteed their profits while the working class was once again told to wait for houses, wait for jobs, wait for education;

4. Two schools were demolished at Matafeni, Nelspruit, while the Mbombela stadium was built; even up to today, the schools have not been rebuilt;
5. While medicines had run out at public hospitals and clinics around the country, the ministers were too busy jetsetting in private jets to world cup games;
6. The food gangsters (Pick 'n Pay, Shoprite, Spar, Woolworths and others) are making billions out of overcharging for food prices, while the government sits on their hands and does nothing;
7. Government is spending R1 trillion (R1000 Bn) on doubling the electricity capacity over the next 5 years, borrowing hundreds of billions of Rands at high interest rates, doubling the price of electricity over the next 2 years; enslaving us and future generations in what is a massive bailout of US imperialist banks- there is no plan for electricity for all, let alone housing for all; we pay over 60 cents per unit but big companies like Anglo American pay 12-16 cents- the working class and lower middle class is not only subsidizing the electricity of the big capitalists but we are paying for coal and nuclear power stations that are not needed (we could have tapped into the 200 000 MW hydroelectricity capacity of the DRC and/or build solar power stations in the North Cape desert.
8. the ANC/SACP are all loudmouth about women's rights but they could not even grant workers in Transnet equal maternity leave as the managers;

In other words, the main agency assisting the imperialists to starve us and keep us enslaved, is the ANC/SACP government.

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## Cosatu leaders and the SACP are undermining the public sector workers struggle

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There was a May CEC resolution that there should be a general strike against the electricity increases; Cosatu leaders keep quiet about the planned meeting at Nedlac for the 14<sup>th</sup> June; it is already August and the increases have come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, having a devastating effect on the working class, the lower middle class and some sections of the small capitalists; yet no plans are in place or any mobilisation started for a general strike; we can only conclude that the Cosatu leaders and the SACP have sold out on this struggle and have struck a deal with imperialism for their trillion Rand plunder of the working class to go ahead. The Cosatu leaders are in effect calling for social 'peace' while imperialism continues

their attacks. We call for workers to mobilise for the immediate removal of this traitorous leadership. Down with the millionaire trade union leaders! We call for workers to march and occupy the Cosatu offices, demanding that a general strike against the imperialist onslaught be called. We call for workers' crisis committees to be set up in every workplace, every mine, every farm, every factory, every working class area, to fight against the electricity price increases and the other attacks by imperialism; what we need is an emergency workers summit uniting delegates from every workplace, irrespective of union, or whether unionised or un-unionised, including delegates from the unemployed and rank and file soldiers, students, to plan and direct a general strike.

Around the globe, the trade union leaders have made pacts with imperialism for them to continue to plunder the working class, with increased rate of exploitation, with increased unemployment, with increased hunger and suffering; but around the globe the working class has not sat with folded arms in the face of this united onslaught by imperialism and their own worker leaders; in Bolivia the industrial workers are demanding that workers break from supporting the regime of Morales; in Argentina in some areas workers have resorted to street fights against the police; in Brasil there is a renewed wave of strikes (breaking of the 'social peace' deal that the union leaders had with imperialism); in Kyrgyzstan the working class overthrew the US puppet Bakiev and burned parliament to the ground; in Thailand workers occupied the centre of the capital for several weeks; there have been 8 general strikes in Greece this year despite the leaders of the workers, including the stalinist party KKE, continuing to defend the imperialist government; of course there have been the heroic strikes of the transport and municipal workers which shattered the plans of the SACP and Cosatu leaders for 'social peace'; the SACP and Cosatu leaders have done and are doing their best to avert any general strike against the ANC government (any general strike would be a strike against the SACP; they are the key part of the ANC cabinet).

With the above in mind, the working class would do well to draw the lesson that despite the huge public sector strike starting, despite what they say, the Cosatu leaders would not call out the industrial workers in solidarity strikes; the Cosatu leaders are doing their best to lower the demands of the workers to avert a strike; they have already reduced workers demands to 8,6% (very low indeed); they are preparing the psychology of the workers to accept an increase of 7% or less. Last year, when president Zuma declared that in 2010 public sector workers should only expect 7%, not a single union leadership raised any objection; in other words they already agreed with this. As the Cosatu leaders did in the municipal strike and last year's clothing workers strikes, if the workers press ahead with strike action, they will only organise for 1-3 days actions, or a short period, and then hope the workers get tired; they will call stayaways so that workers do not occupy the workplaces, thus opening workers up to demoralisation by being isolated and alone; the stayaways will enable the union leaders to manipulate mandates in the absence of mass meetings of delegates to control the strike; further stayaways will be used to prevent workers from taking over their workplaces and really posing the question as to who does the

work and who are the parasites (the capitalists). A public sector strike, in the absence of support by the broader working class, will be greatly weakened. Already the Cosatu leaders act as strike breakers by calling only a 1 day strike, while they know that Fedusa affiliates have called an indefinite strike (2 weeks ago, PSA went on strike while Cosatu leaders called on their members to go to work); the basic principle of working class solidarity is that all workers should strike at the same time; this is the way to have the shortest strike; but Cosatu/SACP leaders are so desperate to please the imperialists that they actively divide the public sector workers.

The most important lesson to draw from the public sector workers struggle is that the alliance with the ANC and SACP is an alliance that places the profits of the imperialists above the interests of the working class; with this alliance, workers democratic demands are trampled on; we call on workers to break with the capitalists; this means breaking with the ANC-SACP; the only way to achieve the democratic aspirations of the masses is for the working class to organise independently from the capitalists; indeed, to achieve the most basic democratic demands, the working class needs to take power!

**Forward to a general strike in support of the public sector workers! Let's call the soldiers from the barracks to join the strike!**

**Viva the indefinite, unified public sector workers strike until all demands are met!**

**Forward to a general strike against the electricity increases!**

**Forward to mass regional and national strike committees that control the strikes, every step of the way!**

**Forward to joint parent teacher student committees to take over the schools and organise solidarity actions in support of the strike!**

**Support the demands of the anti-school fee movement for free education, an end to lawyers letters, for feeding schemes; we add that we should also demand that all work should be shared among all who can work; cut the wages of the CEO's and millionaire/billionaire ministers and MP's; expropriate all imperialist assets and banks (without compensation to the capitalists) and place them under workers control!**

**For a minimum service level while having daily marches and mass meetings!**

**For daily mass meetings of strikers to control the strike and strike committee!**

**Down with the treacherous Cosatu leaders! Down with Zuma-Nzimande-Thatcher!**

**Forward to an emergency workers summit!**

**Forward to an independent revolutionary working class party as part of a revolutionary International (refund the Fourth International)**

19.8.2010

WORKERS INTERNATIONAL VANGUARD LEAGUE  
SA SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LENINIST TROTSKYIST FRACTION.



# Indefinite, general solidarity strikes 2 September; *how to win the demands of the public sector strike*

We salute the heroic spirit of the public sector strikers in the face of brutal, fascistic intimidation and attacks by the amabhulu omnyama of the ANC-SACP government.

We salute the efforts of the working class who have forced the Cosatu leaders to issue 7 day notices on the 26<sup>th</sup> Aug for solidarity strikes in all sectors (this means that the joint solidarity strikes would start on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September). The burning question is: *how to make this indefinite general strike real?*



The first step is to have mass meetings of strikers to consolidate our ranks; We salute the excellent start by Samwu (SA Municipal Workers Union) to come out on a solidarity strike on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August; this is the path to take. We cannot depend on the Cosatu leaders, who will do little to prepare to turn the solidarity strike into an indefinite general strike; they are likely to call a stayaway instead of factory occupation (they have proven to be total lackeys of the bosses as they have failed to carry out their mandate to call a general strike over the electricity increases). The SACP leaders cannot be depended upon as they now have a pattern of supporting the capitalists (they failed to support the national municipal and transport strikes and now they fail to support the current public sector strike; these petti bourgeois SACP leaders are more concerned about the latest model BMW than workers demands).

**If we cannot depend on the Cosatu and SACP leaders, how do we ensure real mobilisation for the indefinite solidarity strikes?** The first step is that, at every school there should be parent teacher student committees set up and mass meetings called of parents, asking them to mobilise solidarity actions and meetings

leading up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, such as mass meetings, pickets and marches from the industrial workers; we should demand the immediate convening of joint shopsteward councils of all unions, setting up solidarity strike committees in all industrial areas and in all working class areas; if the leaders refuse to take concrete steps to prepare, we should do as in Greece, where the workers occupied the union offices and took over the co-ordinating of the strikes (there have been 8 general strikes in Greece, this year alone); if the

government continues to be intransigent, handing over hundreds of billions to the imperialist banks while the masses are kept in starvation, we should do as they did in Madagascar, with the workers uniting with the soldiers, taking over the supermarkets to feed the hungry, and putting the government under siege; if the government persists in using the police against the strikers, let us do as in Kyrgyzstan, where the masses defended themselves by disarming the police, sending the government running with their tails between their legs. Make the capitalists pay for their own crisis, not us!

Forward to indefinite solidarity strikes starting 2 Sept, against the attacks by government and their imperialist bosses! Forward to regional and national worker summits to co-ordinate the general strike!

Forward to 8.6%, R1000 housing allowance and other strike demands!

Forward to free, liberatory education and free quality health care for all!

Adequate houses and services, close to places of work, for all!

Share the work among all who can work, without loss of pay!

Expropriate the banks and all imperialist companies, without compensation, put them under workers control!

25.8.2010

WORKERS INTERNATIONAL VANGUARD LEAGUE  
SA SECTION OF INTERNATIONAL LENINIST TROTSKYIST FRACTION

# Prepare for an indefinite General Strike; *the imperialist attack on the public sector strike is an attack on the broader working class*

The state does not want to move from its 7% wage offer because it is spearheading the general attack by the imperialists to lower all the wages of the workers; the wage settlement in the public sector will set a precedent for the entire working class. The imperialists, who are the ones that really control the economy (the mines, the banks, motor sector companies, the food monopolies, etc), want to lower the wages and conditions of the entire working class. Last year, when Zuma unilaterally declared that public sector wage increase this year would be 7%, not a single SACP or Cosatu leader raised any objection; in other words, they agreed with this sentiment. All over the world, the trade union and Stalinist leaders have led the masses into defeat: In Greece, they have had 8 general stayaways this year alone, but the KKE, the Greek Communist Party and the union leaders refuse to remove the government that has handed over the tax income from import and export and the state lottery, directly into the hands of Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan Chase; in Spain, France, Germany, the USA, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, etc the union leaders have allowed millions of workers to be dismissed and have allowed, despite the willingness of the masses to fight, wages and conditions of workers to be cut. We have a chance to change the pattern of defeats of the working class; already there are trends in the working class around the world, turning to open resistance, building their own fighting organizations, going over the heads of the traditional leaderships, breaking with the bourgeois parties and taking the revolutionary road. The industrial workers in Bolivia are demanding that their union federation break from supporting the Bolivarian bourgeois government of Morales, that their union leadership be expelled and that the path be taken of class resistance against the government; the working class in Kyrgyzstan organized themselves, disarmed the police and overran the government building; the workers and small peasants of Madagascar expelled the US puppet Ravalomanana and the army came over to the side of the working class, kicking out their generals and openly claiming that they were with the masses; the metal workers of Tonghua and Linzhou occupied their factory and the main highways, stopping the planned retrenchment of 20 000 of the 25 000 workers in a privatization exercise by the Chinese government.

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## The ANC-SACP government is an agent of imperialism

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The ANC-SACP government has committed to spend over 4 years, R320bn, just in interest payments, to the international banks, for the electricity scam; in addition to this the international banks and their agents will gain R1 trillion (R1000 bn) from the scam electricity 'build' scheme. The first payment from any state revenue is handed by the ANC-SACP government, to the international banks (the imperialists); one of the main imperialist gangsters, that has bankrupted Greece through high rates of interest, JP Morgan Chase,

is based within the office of Eskom to oversee the loans. Money that could and should have gone to hospitals for free and adequate health care, for free, liberatory education, for adequate housing, for a living wage for the public sector employees, is going into the coffers of the international gangsters, the imperialists. It is a lie to say that the increase of 1.6% to pay 8,6% will mean less employees, less services; the state has long been cutting down on teachers, health expenses, on housing- all they are doing is continuing the trend of being an absolute servant of imperialism, at the expense of hunger, death and starvation of the masses. The money for the increase is a tiny fraction of what imperialism gets every year; besides the Eskom scam, the imperialists, like Anglo American, Old Mutual, Liberty Life, Rembrandt, Sanlam, repatriate over R200 bn per annum to the imperialist centres; it has been the conscious policy of the state to increase the tax burden of the working class and the lower middle class and decrease the taxes of the rich, the capitalists and the upper middle class.

The world capitalist economy is in stagnation; the lack of productive growth, overall, means that the capitalists increasingly cut workers benefits and conditions, to increase their levels of profit; the imperialists increasingly turn to speculation in food, energy, housing prices, to artificially drive up prices and thereby increase profits. The ANC-SACP and Cosatu leaders are all working together with the imperialists to put the burden of the capitalist crisis onto the backs of the working class. The Cosatu leaders have failed to carry out the workers' mandate for a general strike against the high price of electricity. The ANC-SACP leader Gwede Mantashe has promised to turn the battle into a defeat like the British miners strike of the 1980's. The recent SACP CEC meeting of 27-29 Aug 2010 was already a meeting of the government (a significant part of cabinet) and Cosatu leaders. For the first time, 13 days into the strike, the SACP has verbally come out in 'support' of the strike, hardly a vanguard role.

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## Turn Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September into the start of an indefinite general strike

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The municipal workers are already taking solidarity action, region by region; the mine workers, chemical, energy, paper, and now the commercial and catering workers have all indicated they will come out on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, on a solidarity strike; Gauteng and Eastern Cape are poised to come out on regional strikes as well; workers have forced the Cosatu CEC to make the unprecedented call for all sectors to come out on solidarity strikes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September; such notice will lay the basis for the start of an indefinite general strike. However, the focus of the Cosatu and SACP leaders are on negotiations with the government, with the SACP spearheading the betrayal of the strike. The SACP does not



come out in support of solidarity strikes; they do not even condemn the brutality of the police against strikers; the pictures of male policemen on top of a female Nehawu striker leaves them cold; we will expose below just how the SACP plans to betray the strike.

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### Steps to take to ensure that there is a total shutdown on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September:

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1. Do not trust the Cosatu and SACP leaders; any proposed settlement must be discussed in mass meetings of strikers;
2. Depend on your own strike structures; this means setting up strike committees at every workplace, in the towns and cities, irrespective of union affiliation, or whether the workplace is unionized or not, including workers that are unionized and workers that are not unionized; In every industrial area or street where workplaces are situated, such strike committees need to be set up; strike committees should be set up in every working class area, uniting employed workers with the unemployed, local and immigrant workers; in the areas we stay, soldiers should form part of the strike committees; at area and regional and national level we should ensure that delegates of employed, unemployed, students, soldiers, immigrant workers all join together in our common strike committees to give direction to the strike of 2<sup>nd</sup> September and to prepare to take the strike beyond Thursday, indefinitely. There should be regular mass meetings of strikers so that delegates can be subject to instant recall. At all schools we need to call for urgent joint parent teacher student meetings to give support to the strike of 2<sup>nd</sup> September and beyond, and to take over the schools and to run education programmes on imperialism, how it functions and how the state acts as its agent.
3. In particular we call on workers in CEPPWAWU, Giwusa, Ocgawu to form a united front to take over the entire petroleum sector, including Sasol; we call on all the mineworkers to form a united front to take over all the mines; we call on all workers in the commercial and catering sector to form an united front to take over all the supermarkets; we call for all transport workers to take over their transport and provide it for free to the strikers to move about
4. Workers should ensure that the action of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September is of the form of an occupation of the workplaces, not a stayaway. Stayaways are part of the tradition of the SACP and designed to protect the capitalists from workers taking over the factories and to turn workers militancy merely into a pressure tool so that the system of exploitation is not challenged and the way opened for the ANC-SACP to take the lead of a negotiated sellout that incorporates the leadership into the capitalist apparatus while the masses remain in chains.
5. Due to actions of the state in the strike with its harsh, fascist crackdown on strikers, preparation for the strike of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September must include workers right to form self-defence committees, supported by the soldiers. We call on the soldiers to take up their place alongside the workers, with the same call as the soldiers of Madagascar: «We are with the masses, we are the people, we support their demands».

6. We call for all strikers to hold regional summits and a national summit of delegates of workers, unemployed, students, soldiers, immigrants to plan and direct the unfolding general strike. We should invite delegates from workers and poor peasants from Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Swaziland, Lesotho to participate in the regional and national worker summits. We call to invite worker delegates from the entire Southern African region, plundered daily by (mainly) French and US-UK imperialism.

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### Proposed demands for the general strike:

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1. 8.6% increase, R1000 housing allowance; equalization of medical aid benefits;
2. limit the salaries of managers. MP's and government ministers to that of an average skilled worker;
3. the right of instant recall of any representative, be they councilor, MP, Minister
4. equal pay for equal work (including immigrant workers)
5. share all the work among all who can work, without loss of pay;
6. wages should increase when prices increase;
7. Expropriate all imperialist assets, the mines and banks, without compensation, place them under workers control;
8. Expropriate the entire food sector, from the farms, to the food manufacturers to the giant retailers, without compensation, and place them under workers control;
9. expropriate the private health care sector, without compensation, place under workers control; this will open the doors to free quality health care for all;
10. renationalize, without compensation, all sectors that have been privatized, including the coal, iron ore and steel sectors;
11. Down with the brutal, antiworker regimes of Swaziland and Lesotho; we call on all workers in Zimbabwe, in Swaziland and Lesotho to join in the general strike; for the setting up of strike committees in Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Lesotho, which are nothing but slave camps for imperialism; the very same imperialism that keeps the working class in South Africa in chains; Down with the anti-worker regimes across Africa.

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### General strike, not stayaway; beware of a sellout by the SACP and Cosatu leaders

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At the heart of the call for stayaways is the Stalinist notion of a 2-stage revolution- fighting for democracy first (a period of capitalism) and then at some distant future to begin the fight for workers to take power; in other words, the first stage involves putting into power a capitalist government, that opens up a period of capitalism, apparently extending (deepening) the democratic demands, and at some undefined moment the workers fight to take power; in other words workers should *not* take power now but depend on the black capitalists of the ANC to drive the process of a 'developmental' state; that is, the means of production (mines, banks, farms) should remain in the hands of the imperialists, like

Anglo American and a few shares handed out to the black bourgeoisie as their junior partners; the bottom line is that we are asked by the SACP to put the struggle for democratic demands into the hands of the black middle and capitalist class of the ANC. Why the SACP calls stayaways is that they do not want the working class to take over the factories and mines as we still, according to them, need a period of capitalism. At the height of the mass rebellion in the late 1980's the SACP and ANC used the slogan of 'ungovernability' and stayaways as a means to keep the structures of resistance confined to the townships and away from a workers takeover of the factories; the slogan of 'stayaways' played a major role in preventing soviets (workers councils) from arising; thus the very path to dual power, of contesting working class power to that of the capitalist state, was blocked by the politics of the SACP. They use workers as pressure tools to beg from imperialism to allow them to be the new managers to control the working class.

Why the SACP promotes stayaways is to atomise and isolate the strikers so that it is easier for the leadership to sellout the struggle; a stayaway opens workers to victimization as they are now isolated individuals instead of being a united mass; a stayaway demobilizes that masses instead of posing a united stance against the capitalists; a stayaway opens the door for scab labour to be used by the bosses; a strike is a contest for power- a strike/occupation would confront the bosses with a united mass at each workplace- the question of the who the real power is, is placed on the agenda- ie the power of the workers who produce the wealth, or the parasitic capitalists who rule through the brute force of state power; if workers stay at home it gives the bosses strength; they have the capacity to wait out the strike. A stayaway is a self-imposed lockout, a pacifist tactic, always tipping the struggle ultimately in the favour of the capitalists and therefore the imperialists. A general strike/occupation immediately poses the question of strike and factory committees; from here grows the basis for workers power. That is why the SACP so violently opposes real general strikes and at best will only support stayaways to tire out the masses and then reach a settlement that keeps the working class in various levels of slavery.

Has the past 16 years provided houses for all? The ANC-SACP have maintained the level of homelessness that has allowed the banks to push up house prices by the highest percentage in the world (about 400% over the past 5 years);

They do not support mass action to fight the electricity price increase but support only 'negotiation' - see where that has left us?

As a result of the SACP the banks have increased their customers by over 2 million and they fleece us with high bank fees every month;

In the current public sector strike they blame the strikers for abandoning patients; but they forget that the years of collapse and privatization of the public health system has abandoned patients every day; the private hospitals, always half empty, abandon patients every day because they do not have the money; the private hospitals are making a huge profit as strike-breakers but the SACP are silent on this; instead they now want the National Health Insurance (NHI) to become part of the strike settlement. **This must be opposed at all costs.** The NHI will tax workers a further 10% (?) and workers may be able to go to private clinics; after the few hours or perhaps a day or so, when the credit runs out, the patient will be abandoned;

the private clinics will just hike their fees like they always do, and rake in billions extra profits; under the guise of 'health for all', it will really be further privatization of health care; the SACP are acting in the service of the imperialist banks that own the private hospital groups. A similar scheme in the USA has not only excluded 36 million workers from health care benefits but the monopolies have entrenched their control over health.

The SACP does not condemn the police brutality; under such conditions it can only mean that they support the actions of the state against the strikers and that they support the strike-breaking actions of the state in the schools and hospitals.

The main concern of the SACP is the capitalist notion of tying the increase to 'enhanced productivity'; What is even more damning is that the SACP favours a 'moratorium' on the salary levels in the upper levels of government; in other words, the SACP supports the current R1,6 million packages that the ministers get; this is nothing but the upper layer of the SACP clinging to their capitalist privileges and BMW's.

The SACP talks about a 'People's bank' but this is just a vague phrase to disguise the reality: the capitalist banks will be left untouched; the construction companies, the cement, the brick manufacturers, the best land, are all in the hands of the imperialists; all housing is really hostage to the imperialist banks; this is just another phrase to allow another section of the ANC-SACP to become instant millionaires over the backs of the masses. Any serious effort at housing would nationalize the construction and housing sector as well as the banks.

In the most recent strikes: in the municipal strikes the ANC could not even equalize all the wages of the workers in this sector- workers had to strike against the government to force this basic demand- which has not been achieved; in the transport strike, the ANC opposed the equalization of maternity benefits of managers and workers- this demand has not been achieved; in the current strike, the ANC cannot even grant a minimal increase of 8,6% nor even equalize the medical aid benefits. In all cases the might of the police has been used to bash the strikers.

**In short, the ANC-SACP has become the instrument of holding back the struggle for even the most basic democratic demands of the masses. At the same time, the only reliable force to drive these basic demands is the working class! That is why the centre of the indefinite general strike has to be the achievement of the basic democratic demands which can only be accomplished by the working class in power- no other class will stand up for this. Break with the pacifism of the SACP and Cosatu leaders! Break with the bourgeoisie! Break with the ANC-SACP! Beware of the CDL (Conference of the Democratic left) which is made up of the SACP leaders who try to build a false 'anti-capitalist' party as a new means of controlling the masses for imperialism! Forward to working class power! Forward to an internationalist, revolutionary working class party! Forward to an organizing committee for the refounding of the Fourth International! Forward to the federation of Socialist, Workers states of Southern Africa!**

30.8.2010

WORKERS INTERNATIONAL VANGUARD LEAGUE  
SA SECTION OF INTERNATIONAL LENINIST TROTSKYIST FRACTION

# On the state's plan to draft unemployed youth into the army

The capitalist gangsters of Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan Chase are busy subjecting the working class in Greece and across Europe to hunger and starvation by implementing austerity measures. The working class are already faced with starvation and unemployment while their governments bailed out the imperialist banks by printing paper money without any relation to existing production; now those countries themselves are bankrupt because they owe money to the same imperialist banks they bailed out. Workers in Greece should refuse to pay this odious debt and if they shut down the factories, workers must occupy them and place them under workers control, we call for workers self defense committees and workers militias to defend themselves against the imperialist onslaught. We salute the heroism of the working class in Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, Madagascar and everywhere in the world where the working class have stood against the fascistic police and took the battle onto the streets to show their anger and are fighting for their demands. The working class in Kyrgyzstan had gone a mile further by occupying the parliament and burning down the government house.

The imperialist banks are centralizing their attack through the governments, against the working class in Europe and now they are preparing a further, vicious onslaught on to the working class in the colonies and semi colonies. The imperialists had learned a lesson in Madagascar in that even though the masses were burning the government building in Kyrgyzstan, the soldiers were kept in their barracks because they feared that the soldiers will stand on the side of the workers (as they did in Madagascar). Similarly, in Greece, the army has been kept in their barracks. In the semi-colonies like South Africa, the imperialists, through the ANC-SACP government, are preparing a vicious attack on the masses to avoid a 'Greece' or 'Kyrgyzstan', by preparing a professional wing of the most vicious fascist band in the army which is going to be trained to attack their own class brothers and sisters. This is done in the name of job creation for the unemployed youth. The agents of imperialism, the renegades of Trotskyism, through the social movements [WSF] and Stalinists of the SACP have failed to corrupt and pacify the youth in South Africa.

When the Minister of defense gave her speech in parliament announcing government's intentions to absorb the youth in to the army, she said: «Any television footage of service delivery protest will show that at the fore front of this, in great majority are our youth .with excessive anger and misdirected energy and frustration etched on their faces. We as a country can ill afford this». She said, that is, what she really meant to say, imperialism can ill afford revolutionary young people coming out to make democratic demands which can cause another revolutionary June 16; they are aware of the revolutionary potential of the youth so they want to corrupt the youth and overwhelm the progressive forces already within the ranks of the soldiers, by outnumbering them with some fascist elements. This initiative by government is not new; when Mugabe's government was faced with a potential revolution, a fascist paramilitary band was formed from the ranks of the unemployed youth and functions to instill fear among the working class who were pushing for revolutionary measures. Mugabe, the agent of British and American imperialism, through this fascist band, killed and tortured many of the working class in Zimbabwe in the name of patriotism; in the DRC similar fascist bands were created by French and American imperialists to torture the Congolese working class so

that their revolutionary aspirations would not be realized. The Khomeini regime in Iran also created a paramilitary band of over 300 000 to terrorize and suppress the working class.

The South African government, the agents of British and American imperialism, after failing to further pacify the youth through the YCL, Cosas, Sasco & ANCYL, have now realized that a potential workers' revolution led by the



militant youth of this country, fueled by the spirit of the workers and youth of 1976, is imminent and now they need to take preemptive measures such as to select from among them the ruthless types, to indoctrinate them to hate their own class and use them to attack all working class activists and use them as a counter-revolutionary force against the working class. The world cup will come and go but the needs of young people remains unresolved; after the world cup the South African government will be forced to attack the working class by imposing onto them austerity measures to pay for the debt created by building



unwanted stadiums (big capital was bailed out twice: government loaned from the imperialists for the world cup and now has to repay the loans and the huge interest bill) ; in the near future the paramilitary bands would be used to smash any uprising against the government.

The Minister unashamedly reminds us of how much imperialism and their agents within the ANC hate unionization of the soldiers; they proposed to parliament for unions to be replaced by a counter-revolutionary service commission (a toothless structure similar to the tactics of the old National Party regime) that will serve the interest of the imperialist bourgeoisies. The class antagonisms of capitalist society are reflected in the structure of the army; the handful of generals and officer caste have privileges, high salaries and mirror the capitalist class- they have allegiance first and foremost to the imperialists- they do not hesitate to sacrifice the rank in file soldier in battles and wars of plunder, or in the final analysis, in the case of a workers uprising, to drown it in blood; the rank and file soldiers on the other hand, mirror the working class, having poor conditions and low pay- they are the ones who put their bodies on the line while the generals live in comfort and issue orders from their ivory towers. The rank and file soldier is generally drawn from the working class and has more in common with his/her class brothers and sisters. There is of course a middle layer in the army, which mirrors the middle class, torn between the antagonistic interests of the capitalist and working class. The rank and file soldier has common interest with the working class as shown in the 1871 Paris Commune and lately in the workers and soldiers committees in Madagascar (where the workers and peasants, supported by the rank and file soldiers, overthrew US imperialist puppet, Ravalomanana). Unions for the rank and file soldiers are a very important step forward to defend their interest against that of the capitalist-imperialist class but should not be seen as a replacement for the need for rank and file soldiers to send delegates to structures of the working class in struggle, such as community meetings, strike committees, workers' summits etc. Ultimately, the interests of the rank and file soldiers are the same as the proletariat as a whole, and cannot be met within the bounds of capitalism and it is in their interest to unite with and support the rest of the working class in struggle.

Such is the antagonism between the generals and the rank and file soldiers that there are some military bases where no general dare set foot. [This is the reason why soldiers are being sent to the borders; imperialism wants to break up the unity of the soldiers].

The state is doing their best to break the unity and militancy of the rank and file soldiers; their strategy of huge increases in wages is a measure to co-opt them and to break their unions. It is in this context that the drafting of unemployed youth into the army, must be seen; it is a measure to smash and neutralize the progressive forces within the army. This process will take some time; however the state has calculated that if a mass workers uprising were to occur now, they would not be able to depend on the army to smash the revolution; on the contrary, the great likelihood is that the soldiers will side with the working class. Imperialism has calculated that they need an immediate, reserve, counter-revolutionary force; thus they have rushed through the creation of a militarized police. This was smuggled though under

the pretext of preparation for the world cup; its existence is being prolonged under the cover of so-called 'xenophobic' attacks. The leadership of Cosatu offered little resistance to this new force, abandoning it as a sectoral issue in the arms of the police and soldier unions.

To the revolutionary rank and file soldiers we say: unite with the new recruits and let them join the unions. We salute the talks among soldier unions to unite but we want to warn against Stalinist elements within the unions which may want to destroy the union from within or reduce the role of the union to a depoliticized shell separate from working class struggles.

The government failed to implement HR 2010 and now they want to implement HR 2020 which is a scam to dilute the progressive forces within the SANDF that were trained to fight the unjust, anti-working class system; now they want to recruit ruthless young people who would be trained to kill their own class. We denounce the government intentions to recruit young people to train them to be paramilitary fascist bandits who would be used to smash the working class protest against government; the state makes delusional claims of creating jobs for young people and of affording them chance to acquire skills. Not every young person who will be part of this program would be admitted as soldiers because the real aim is to create a fascist band within the soldiers. Imperialism is known to create fascist band and unleash fascism when it is faced with a potential revolution; this is not new, it has happened in Bolivia during 2003-2005 and Kyrgyzstan in 2010.

Having said this nevertheless we agree with Lenin when he wrote *'The bourgeoisie makes it its business to promote trusts, drive women and children into the factories, subject them to corruption and suffering, condemns them to extreme poverty. we do not support such development we fight it'*. That is, we condemn the exploitation by the capitalists. In the view that imperialism is armed against the working class and constantly attacking them Lenin went further to say *'with the necessary changes that argument that is applicable also to the past militarization is applicable also to the present militarization of the population. Today the imperialist bourgeoisie militarizes the youth as well as the adults: ... our attitude should be all the best! full speed ahead for the fast we move, the nearer shall we be to the armed uprising against capitalism.'*

We encourage young working class youth to enroll themselves in the program to learned skills, to learn how to use guns and arm the entire working class to advance the attack on capitalism; our slogan is forward to the arming of the proletariat and disarm the bourgeoisie for an *'oppressed class which does not strive to learn to use arms, to acquire arms, only deserve to be treated like slaves.'* Lenin [the military programme of the proletarian revolution]. The central point is, side by side with this, is that the youth must study Marxism, must study past revolutions; for without such class consciousness, the youth could fall prey to the imperialist parasites.

WORKERS INTERNATIONAL VANGUARD LEAGUE  
SA SECTION OF INTERNATIONAL LENINIST TROTSKYIST FRACTION

# Why the working class should support the Satawu-Utatu strike

Firstly, we condemn the decision by the Prasa bosses to unilaterally cancel the selling of monthly tickets and to cancel all trains from the 10th May (at least in the Western Cape ; the sale of weekly tickets (at a higher rate) places a burden on the working class over and above the huge increase in rail fees, recently implemented). To force the working class to seek their own means of transport on the 10th and during the entire strike, is holding the working class hostage to the capitalist model of the government to commercialise transport, instead of it being a service to the masses. This imperialist-measure is typical of wanting to put worker against worker, wanting the working class to attack strikers. This rather amateurish attempt to divide the working class has backfired- workers are furious at being ripped off yet again by Prasa and the government and this will help build support for the strike.

High transport and fuel costs, high food prices, high electricity prices at artificially high levels, are all mechanisms of monopoly capitalism (imperialism) shifting their crisis of falling profits onto the backs of the working class. The bailout of the main US and EU banks with state funds, based on production that does not even exist, has now opened up a period of bankruptcy of the states. Greece has been bankrupted by Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan Chase, who has charged exorbitant rates for loans to them. With the Greek government unable to repay the loans, the US monopolies have seized the control of all their imports and exports as well as control of the ports. Income goes directly to the US banks and does not even go via the Greek government. The minor imperialist government of Greece has been forced to either go bankrupt or attack the gains of the working class. They have chosen to attack the working class, resulting in some of the biggest strikes in their history. Imperialism has been able, for the moment, to maintain control of the working class through the Greek Communist party and all the left parties (including the so-called anti-capitalist party Syriza and fake trotskysts), which refuse to mobilise for the overthrow of the government. When workers were ready to take over, the leaders of the workers movement called for a general

stayaway and opened the militant workers to attack by the state and fascist bands. It is important for the working class, here and across the world to draw the lessons from the struggles in Greece.

The Gautrain scam started as a R5 billion project, but upon completion cost R35 billion. Upon examining who benefited, all lines lead directly and indirectly to JP Morgan Chase (the main culprit which has collapsed Greece). [JP Morgan Chase and other Wall street bandits have controlling shares in Murray & Roberts, the leader of the construction consortium that built the Gautrain]. Prasa (the Rail agency of the government, headed by SACP leader Lucky Montana) threatened, over national television, to dismiss Satawu members in a recent strike, refusing

to pay staff who had been working for the railways, some for almost 10 years, an annual bonus last year. The same Prasa now claims they need R50 billion to upgrade the rail network. Instead of using the funds (that went to the gautrain) for upgrading the national network, the government built the most expensive short rail line in the world- a thinly disguised bailout of JP Morgan Chase, for building a white elephant, designed to serve a relative few.



The recent World Bank loan of just less than R30 billion is another slush fund for imperialism under the guise of an electricity 'build programme'. There is no justification for doubling the electricity capacity in 10 years. The interest rate (about R3 billion per annum - 10%) is higher than what the World bank can normally fetch in Europe, namely 3%. While Satawu leaders were praising Ramos for her time at the helm of Transnet, they provided a cover for part of the process of reduction of workers from 200 000 to 50 000 today.

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## What's at stake in the Satawu-Utatu strike?

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The SACP has long argued that the ANC is the leader of the struggle for democratic demands but here, the ANC (and SACP) at the head of Transnet cannot even concede on basic democratic

demands such as making 5000 casuals permanent; they maintain unequal maternity benefits for management and workers; they cannot even grant 2 days paternity leave; they cannot even assure workers of a 15% wage increase (they offer only 8% while workers inflation is more than 30%).

The central theme of the dispute is that the ANC and SACP are the chief obstacle to workers achieving their democratic demands. Workers need to realise this. The SACP actions (such as calling for discussions over the electricity scam rather than a general strike; their failure to support the recent Samwu strike, etc) show that they have an informal policy of 'labour peace' during the period of the World cup; even more, the SACP and ANC ensures that the JP Morgan Chase and other Wall street gangsters are paid (and overpaid), while the workers must not only wait, but take wage cuts and have their rights trampled upon. Workers need to realise that in this strike, it is not only a battle against the politics of the ANC and SACP but also a battle against monopoly capital- ie imperialism. The rapid militarisation of the police together with the slush fund politics of government shows that the hand of imperialism is directly involved in preparing to crackdown on the working class.



Workers should know that within Satawu there is a SACP faction that will do its best to demobilise workers, such as calling for stayaways during the strike, of refusing to set up mass strike committees of workers, and refusing to call regular general meetings of workers to give mandates.

On the other hand, the recent Samwu strike shows that if the masses want to achieve even the most basic democratic demands, they can only depend on working class action and leadership, not on the amabhulu omnyama of the ANC and SACP. The essence of the alliance with the ANC and SACP is in reality to tie the working class to the leadership of imperialism. In other words, the reality is that imperialism leads the alliance.

The best way to win the strike is for the entire working class to be mobilised:

1. The central task must be to ensure that the strike is in the form of an occupation of the worksites rather than a passive stayaway (ala sACP and the Greek CP);
2. this means that there should be strike committees and self-defence committees set up at each site (based on the right of instant recall of all worker leaders up to the highest level);

3. The core of the strike has to be general meetings every day to guide and give mandates
4. Committees in negotiation should be broadened to include delegates from the base, from around the country;
5. Committees should be set up in industrial areas and in working class areas to include the other employed workers and unemployed workers and rank and file soldiers in strike support; all other sectors should be called upon to give notice for solidarity strikes
6. A Workers summit should be called to centralise the fight against high prices and the failure of the government to meet the democratic demands of the masses; the central theme of break with the bourgeoisie means not only a decisive break with the politics of the ANC and SACP but

the setting up of independent factory committees and councils of workers delegates, irrespective of union affiliation and with representatives from casual workers and from immigrant worker committees. Delegates from workers and rank and file soldiers from Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland and the rest of Southern Africa should also be invited to

the summit, to break the isolation of the heroic masses in Madagascar, Zimbabwe and the DRC.

7. A call of solidarity should be made to the working class in the US and UK especially to tackle their own imperialist regimes that are parasitic not only over the working class in Africa but also of most of humanity. We call on the dockers and transport workers in the US and UK to also engage in solidarity strikes against their own imperialist plunder of Africa.
8. The date of a general strike against the imperialist attacks should be set before the World cup final; why should the working class have to wait while imperialism is guaranteed the first draw on all state resources?

Long live the spirit of the working class in Kyrgyzstan, Greece, Tongva, Linzhou, Coimbratoare, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, etc. Workers of the world unite; we have nothing to lose but our chains, and a world to win!

5.5.2010

AFRICAN SECRETARIAT , WORKERS INTERNATIONAL VANGUARD LEAGUE, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATION SECRETARIAT



### *To the workers of Zimbabwe, South Africa, the entire African continent, the workers in the heart of imperialism and the world over.*

Today, the 1st May, we gather in our respective venues (across the world) to commemorate the day which comes to be after heroic fights by our class brothers and sisters over a century ago. As we commemorate we should reflect for a moment our challenges to realise and consolidate the achievements made so far. Day by day capitalism-imperialism, with the able assistance of fake Trotskyists, Stalinists, labour aristocracy and many other counterrevolutionary currents mushrooming in the entire modern world today, is violently reversing those gains.

Nevertheless, recent events proved that such dogmatic acts will never detour the working class from the revolutionary road, they would only succeed in delaying the revolution, the radical social revolution. The working class struggles in Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Australia show that the writing is on the wall. The world capitalist is in bankruptcy, its crisis is approaching a dead end. We are now passing through one of those great historic hours upon which the fate of the Zimbabwean working people, the fate of Africa, and in significant measure the fate of the whole humanity, will depend for decades.

Veteran revolutionary socialist fighter and theoretician comrade Leon Trotsky when describing the options of the Germany crisis in December 1931 in a perspective report «What's Wrong With the Current Policy of the German Communist Party?» said; «If you place a ball on top of a pyramid, the slightest impact can cause it to roll down either to the left or to the right. There are forces which would like the ball to roll down towards the right and break the back of the working class. There are forces which would like the ball to remain at the top. That is a utopia. The ball cannot remain at the top of the pyramid. The (working class) want the ball to roll down toward the left and break the back of capitalism».

That is the situation approaching with every hour in Zimbabwe, the whole of Africa and the entire globe today. Today the world situation is pregnant with exactly, if not more ripened, Germany possibilities of 1931; the world working class no longer want to be ruled under the old order, they are questioning their loyalties to the popular front parties which, in Africa are fast replacing the discredited national liberation movements. In Africa, and in Zimbabwe in particular, there is an unholy alliance between employers and the government constituted by the three political parties namely; the two formations of Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and Zimbabwe African National Union - (Patriotic Front) (ZANU(PF)), to attack the workers.

Recent utterances by some high profile figures, including the Finance Minister (Tendai Biti of the MDC) which gave license to employers / business to downsize so to continue maximizing their super-profits –coupled with now common practice by employers to refuse to pay or to stagger wages and salaries, the imposition of short time work schemes with loss of wage/salary, also the imposition of wage and salaries freeze of both public and private sectors– only point to one direction: attack on the working class

who are the majority poor -serving the interest of capitalism-imperialism -Anglo-American imperialism in particular.

Indeed they (our class enemies-the government and the business) are aware the ball cannot remain on top of the pyramid for a while hence they want it to roll towards the right and break the back of the worker. Already some companies, in the textile, food, clothing, steel have started to heed the minister's call by sending workers home with some retrenching; why would they wait to begin acting when their protection is guaranteed? Workers and their leaders are victimized, persecuted, killed for demanding what is due to them.



On the other hand the different gangs of all the bourgeois parties and the capitalists are busy plundering and sharing the country's natural capital amongst themselves. The objective is self-enrichment; they, in the name of addressing historical injustice take land and distributed amongst themselves, however, as usual they did not dare touch the land of imperialist nor their mines and factories. Their target was the property of some small capitalists. They are in Chiyadzwa where the different gangs are quarreling about who should be in charge of the diamond fields on behalf of Anglo-American/JPMorgan Chase. In the ZANU (PF) mouthpiece (the *Herald*) it was reported that «the government appointed company (IDC) could extract diamond worth over USD650 000 per week when fully capacitated». If these mineral and the proceeds from the sale of the precious stone were properly planned for, the country could feed not only its citizenry but the entire population of the continent. There would be no need to freeze wages / salaries of the civil servants, our children could enjoy free education, free access to health etc. While Biti is calling for companies to downsize (workforce and the wage / salary bill) the Prime Minister (Tsvangirai) and the President (Mugabe) are calling Zimbabweans in foreign lands where they are subjected to slave-like conditions offering cheap labour to return arguing that the economic and political situation has improved / stabilised. The Labour Minister too is quoted saying many companies are applying for retrenchment, but does this mean companies are operating at a loss? No, it is their policy to pay slave like wages / salaries, in fact they want free labour. The same Finance Minister went further to attack the few minimal 'favourable' provisions of the labour laws of the country (Zimbabwe), which he describes as too protective; clearly the minister as a servant of Anglo-American/JPMorgan Chase, wants the ball to break the workers' backs.

While all this is said, they continue milking from the very meager income of the toiling masses got from selling wares and from the flat envelope they receive from the insane employer, the government, through its various departments are charging astonishing exorbitant, anti-poor fees / rates. We have repeatedly warned that workers will painfully pay for these secret deals this capitalist-imperialist government is entering with imperialist corporations. The government receive with much ululation the news

that Zimbabwe's voting rights have been restored, it welcomes with enthusiasm the IMF delegation last year and receive with no hesitation the IMF loan of USD500million – ooh who does not know the negative impact of the policies of these so-called good Samaritans (International Financial Institutions)? they reap where they did not sow. Least we forget the effects of ESAP (Structural Adjustment Programmes) which has contributed wholesomely to our present suffering, including operation Murambatsvina. Now we are paying by our blood; massive retrenchments, wage / salaries cuts, freeze of wages / salaries and low (no) expenditure by government on public services. It's a death penalty, under these conditions, if remained unchallenged, we are therefore only living on hired time.

The workers of Zimbabwe likewise their class brothers and sisters internationally always enter the revolutionary path but as usual the counterrevolutionary, reformists, fake Trotskyists, Stalinists strangle and divert the agenda of the working class by collaborating with the workers' class enemy. They impose their minimum, class collaborationist programme to be the ultimate mission of the struggle of the working class. They confuse workers by adulterating Marxism, by reducing the struggle for the conquest of power to pure economic struggle. The period we are, the period of capitalism-imperialism decay, is a period when even the 'democratic' demands have to be fought for.

But the workers cannot achieve these 'democratic' demands by reconciling with imperialism – no, we don't reconcile with our class enemies, butchers of the mine workers in Shabani, of poor masses who are panning (for minerals) for survival in Chiwadzwa. We cannot reconcile with counterrevolutionaries who are our enemy within – they are the most dangerous type as they, for crumbs, are the servants of capitalism-imperialism. The workers of Zimbabwe, of the world have ahead either barbarism or socialism: the fight against imperialism barbarism is a matter of life and death. We are the only class with class interests to take the fight for total liberation (economic, social and political), to its logical conclusion through the conquest of power by the proletariat. Only when the working class organised independently, becoming the leader of the broader masses through taking power into its own hands, then we can have democratic demands (jobs, shelter, education, health, a people driven constitution) met, being themselves transitional demands towards socialist demands. The suffering poor people want a different society, a socialist society order; they are sharply opposed to the parasitic system of imperialism-capitalism.

«But it is not enough to want; one must know how». Let us calmly reflect once more: is the policy carried on at present by the leadership, of MDCs or ZANU(PF) correct or incorrect? Who are they serving, who benefits from their policies, which are frankly anti-working people - the majority poor? Can we say recommending companies to downsize is pro-working class/poor? Can we say evicting tenants from their houses is pro-working class/poor. Can we say freezing wages / salaries of the ordinary civil servants pro-working class/poor? The government, instead of taxing the rich to fund pro-poor developmental projects, is doing the opposite. The Finance Minister in his monetary policy, categorically stated that the government gets over (50%) of its income from the workers as PAYE while companies are paying a small (14%). Zimbabwean workers are the highest taxed in the continent if not the world over! If the government taxed the big monopolies such as the diamond, platinum, cotton, tobacco companies at even 50% of their profits, that would immediately take Zimbabwe out of its crisis; but even this minimal bourgeois democratic measure is something the government will not do.

To the world producers of the wealth, let's calmly reflect once more, where are they (managers of capitalism-imperialism and their counterrevolutionary friends) heading us? – capitalist

barbarism or socialism. Enough is enough comrades – we have nothing to lose but the chains of bondage; we organize or we starve!

The policies of all the political parties in Zimbabwe and internationally are pro-capitalist-imperialism and they could continue as such unless and until the working class break with these bourgeois, popular front, liberation movement parties. The workers can only triumph by conquering power through organising by themselves independently and without any grain of class distortions/contradictions. In Zimbabwe, the workers must build an alternative, revolutionary independent working class movement for workers' power alternative to both formations of MDC and ZANU(PF).

To avoid or to guard against a replica of the results of the previous Working Peoples' Convention where the process was from the onset hi-jacked by servants of capitalism, a correct policy is necessary.

That is, we need a policy appropriate to the present situation, to the present relationship of forces, and not to the situation that may develop in one, two, or three years, when the question of power will already have been decided for a long time. We must remove any illusions to say MDC this or that is a better evil than ZANU(PF). The struggle is not to put a better evil in power but a workers' and peasants government in power. Recent developments have proved that these political parties are serving the same masters - imperialism.

«There are seven keys in the musical scale. The question as to which of these keys is «better» – do, re, or sol – is a nonsensical question. But the musician must know when to strike and what keys to strike». The abstract question of who is the lesser evil – Mugabe or Tsvangirai – is just as nonsensical. It is necessary to know which of these keys to strike. Is that clear? For the feeble-minded let us cite another example. When one of my enemies sets before me small daily portions of poison and the second, on the other hand, is about to shoot straight at me, then I will first knock the revolver out of the hand of my second enemy, for this gives me an opportunity to get rid of my first enemy. But that does not at all mean that the poison is a «lesser evil» in comparison with the revolver», argued Trotsky.

The workers must act independently from the leaders or policies of the political parties that represent the bosses and imperialism; they must defend their worker agenda. There is no harmony in the communities, in the factories, mines etc; workers are being attacked ruthlessly by capitalism-imperialism. We need to defend ourselves against this unholy alliance in the factories and our communities. For how long shall we drink and queue for untreated water? For how long shall our children remain out of school? For how long shall we continue destroying our forests for firewood? For how long shall the employers stagger our wages/salaries? For how long shall employers refuse to pay a wage/salary in line even with the minimal poverty datum level? For how long shall we remain without jobs? For how long shall we remain on short-time work schemes? For how long shall we live in darkness - without electricity? For how long shall we continue receiving anti-poor bills - we don't even consume what we are billed. For how long shall we remain beggars in our own country of birth? For until when shall we live in the open without a roof above and a decent floor under our bodies? For until when shall we watch our beloved class brothers and sisters die from hunger and curable diseases?

In the meantime, as we endure hunger and misery, the rich land in Zimbabwe which could feed the entire Southern Africa is still in the hands of the imperialist companies, aided by their fascistic lackeys, the 'white' commercial farmers and the new agrarian bourgeoisie, who expropriated a portion of the best land for the officers of the bourgeois army of Mugabe and company. Small



peasants see that they cannot live from their tiny plot of land. The agricultural workers are used as slaves in the plantations of the transnationals and the big agrarian bourgeoisie. We cannot continue like this! Enough with hunger, misery and ruin for the working class, the poor peasants and the rural workers! Enough with opulence and concentration of the wealth in the hands of the transnationals and the native bourgeoisie!

### AN APPEAL OF THE INTERNATIONALIST TROTSKYISTS OF ZIMBABWE ON THIS MAY DAY TO FIGHT TOGETHER WITH THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS

This is why we are calling all workers of Zimbabwe, the region, the continent and internationally to unite and rally together under one banner, the banner of the international proletariat, of the urban and rural working class, which for us, is the Fourth International.

We call to set up, against the bosses, the exploiters' and the imperialist parties, a new internationalist revolutionary party of the working class, a new revolutionary party, a real General Staff of the working class and their allies, in order to put an end to the catastrophe that looms upon our heads and is killing us day by day.

Far from being gravediggers of this rotten and smelly capitalist system in crisis, the world reformist left currents are tending it as caring nurses. After having long supported capitalism, now, when it is facing a thorough bankruptcy, and throwing its burdens over the backs of the working class and the oppressed people of the world, these traitors have unified their forces against the working class and in defense of the exploiters' private property.

Those wolves, dressed as sheep are calling now to set up «anti-capitalist» parties, but the «anti-capitalist» is just in name, as they refuse to touch a single interest of the transnationals, the banks and imperialism. Alas!... The workers do not deserve new obstacles on their path or new betrayers who speak on the name of socialism in order to better betray them.

Workers who do not get their wages, enslaved rural workers in the plantations, workers who must migrate to work as slaves to neighbor countries: we must raise our fist on this May Day and take the lead to set up an internationalist revolutionary alternative.

For workers to achieve real democratic demands we call for;

- the formation of workers' defense committees in factories and in every workers neighbourhood - to defend against; dismissals, retrenchments, short-time work scheme, victimization of workers leaders, staggering of wages / salaries, wage / salary freeze, slave like wages / salaries, evictions and against power and water disconnections, i.e, against the general attack by imperialism. At the same time we must unite our struggles with the struggles of our class brothers and sisters in South Africa, UK, USA, Greece, Italy etc, where they work as slaves and second-class workers, and demand 'equal pay and equal work'. One single class, one single struggle! Work for all! No more unemployment! The doors of the COSATU

must be opened for all the African brothers and sisters to organize ourselves in a common fight! Migrant workers committees to send delegates to all the branches of COSATU! For unemployed committees to send delegates to all unions, the National and regional workers congresses to join hands to fight for decent work for all and to share the work among all who can work!

- expropriation without compensation and put under workers' control all companies; closing down, put workers on retrenchment, victimizing workers and workers' leaders, stagger wages / salaries, paying slave like wages / salaries, impose short-time working scheme. Hundreds of thousands of workers are being dismissed in Zimbabwe by the bosses and by ZANU-PF and the MDC, and they have to migrate as outcasts in their own land to get a miserable job to sustain their starving families. To conquer food, clothing, education and all our demands, we need to expropriate all imperialist assets, without compensation and place them under workers' control. Nationalise the land and expropriate all commercial farmers, without compensation, put them under workers control; create model worker collectives and invite all the poor peasantry to join such collectives.

- They want to make us believe that there is no money. It is a lie. The parasites, the exploiters and imperialism are awash in money and wealth plundered from Africa! The question is clear: It is us or them. **It is necessary to expropriate and nationalize the banks without compensation merging them into a single State Bank put under workers' control.**



That bank will be able to give cheap credit to the poor peasants, furnish cutting edge machinery to the plantations and nationalized land expropriated from the big agrarian bourgeoisie.

- (workers) factory occupation on all companies that stagger wages / salaries, pay starvation wages / salaries, closing, retrenchment, victimize workers and workers leaders, impose short-time work scheme
- an Independent Movement for Workers Power with the following steps:

first a call for factory committees in every workplace whose task is to gather demands of the working class, to take on the tasks of organising self defence and to take steps to organise production under workers control; second, the formation of labour forums (committees of delegates) in working class communities and in all industrial areas to prepare for the convening of a National Workers Congress of delegates (1 per 100) of employed and unemployed workers, revolutionary students / youths, disabled and other socially disadvantaged groups including HIV / Aids groups, rural poor peasants and the rank and file soldiers. It is only this National workers Congress that can guarantee that the Hundreds, thousands, of exploited are already realizing that the bosses' parties are able/willing to solve absolutely nothing for them. We internationalist Trotskyists affirm that only a **government of the workers, supported by the exploited sectors and poor peasants' can give a solution to the crisis that has abated on us.**

From the International Revolutionary League (IRL-FI), we fight to build that party in Zimbabwe, in the entire Southern Africa, in the whole world and that party is for us the 4th International, which fights for the international socialist revolution.



We know that our small nucleus will not be able to fulfill this task without hundreds of thousands of exploited and revolutionary students taking it in their hands as *their task*. To set up this party where there will be no place for bosses or exploiters, or for careerists or opportunists; a party rallying the defenders of workers democracy and the fighters for the international revolution.

- break (trade unions, student organisations and other workers' organisations) with bourgeois parties (MDC, ZANU(PF), fake 'Anti-Capitalist' ) of the bosses that starve us. Break with their (MDCs) anti-workers pact with the ZANU(PF) and form an Independent Movement for Workers' Power. We must break the siege against the masses in Madagascar, imposed by Stalinists reformists and the agents of the bourgeoisie within the workers movement, the same siege imposed in Zimbabwe and in every decisive struggle by subordinating the working class to the bourgeoisie! Enough! Break with the bourgeoisie! One single class, one single struggle in the whole Southern Africa! Out French and US-UK imperialism from Madagascar! Our class brothers from Greece and their magnificent general strike against the attack of the capitalists and the Greek imperialist regime, junior partner of Goldman Sach/JP Morgan Chase, shows the way to all the world working class on how to fight against their exploiters. A congress of workers, poor peasants and soldiers of all Southern Africa could put on the agenda, starting from the revolutionary fight of the Greek workers, conquering the general strike that surpasses the borders, paralyzes the African continent and puts into question who owns the wealth that is daily plundered (by imperialism): either the exploiters or the working class (the real producers in Africa). The imperialist, the exploiters -since they take the bread, land, work away from us, they enslave us, they starve us, our children and our families to death- they deserve what our class brothers and sisters did in Kyrgyzstan. Facing the 200% increase of the basic products and the services, they paralyzed the country with strikes, barricades, picket lines and fighting in the streets. They disarmed the murderous police when they repressed, kicking out the government of the starvation and slavery, demolishing the institutions of the exploiters.

-Labour aristocracy and bureaucracy out of our organizations! For workers' democracy! Bourgeois state and its regulations on the unions out of the workers organizations! The only aim of the state of the exploiters and their laws is to corrupt the workers' leaders with crumbs, in exchange for misery and the worst attacks against the large majority of the workers.

Bureaucrats out of the workers organizations! They, as the Stalinist bureaucracy, have sold out the gains of the former workers states to the world economy, becoming a new exploiting class!

Castroite restorationist bureaucracy out of Cuba! It has strangled the workers and peasants revolution in Latin America, made an agreement with Obama for subordinating the US working class, and now it is preparing to take new steps in the capitalist restoration in the island!

-Close to our shores, less than a year ago, the workers and peasants in Madagascar have staged an uprising. They, organized together with the soldiers' committees that refused to repress the people, knocked the hatred government of Ravalomanana down. They caused the whole bourgeoisie and the exploiters of our continent to tremble. All the forces of the bourgeois parties, of the imperialist powers, as well as that cynical «African Union» which is a ministry of colonies, came out to fence that heroic revolution that had started, in which Rajoelina and the rest of the bosses, servants of the French imperialism, put themselves on top of it to try expropriating and blocking it from developing.

Subordinating us country by country to our own bourgeoisies, so far they have prevented us to fight and take decisive steps as our class brothers in Madagascar did.

Rajoelina out! French and US imperialism out of Madagascar, South Africa and the entire Southern Africa! We must break the fence that the Stalinists, reformists and all kinds of agents of the bourgeoisie in the workers movement have imposed to the masses in Madagascar, the same that they have imposed in Zimbabwe and in every decisive fight by subordinating the proletariat to the bourgeoisie! Enough is enough! We must break with the bourgeoisie! One single class, one single fight in the whole Southern Africa!

As we say in this manifesto, it is about uniting the whole working class in the entire Southern Africa in a big workers' congress supported by the poor peasants and soldiers, which will have the honour of set a chair to their class brothers and sisters of Madagascar, so that they can spark the flames of revolution over the whole Africa for the victory of the proletarian revolution and the defeat of imperialism. Workers, unemployed, revolutionary students, poor peasants, rank and file soldiers, from across the region need to send delegates to such Workers Congress.

Long live the revolution in Kyrgyzstan! Long live the revolution in Madagascar! Long live the general strike in Greece! That's the way to achieve victory in the entire Southern Africa that the International Leninist Trotskyist Fraction (FLTI) is proposing, while fighting for re-founding the world party of the whole working class, the Fourth International! The Stalinists and reformists want us to believe that our strength is in the unity with the bourgeois parties, with the lackey bourgeoisie, with the NGO's which, from the UN and the imperialist powers, corrupt the working class and a small sector of their ranks to sell out our struggles. No more! Our strength is in the unity of the African working class with the working class of USA and Europe!

In 1886 the militant workers of the First International, led by the US working class rose up for a 40 hour week; some were executed for their actions, but the uprising sparked the resistance that is continuing on a world scale today. Many workers have conquered even a 35 hour week. We call on the workers in the US, UK, France, Germany, Japan, to rise against your own imperialist who are today plundering China, Africa, Latin America. To free Zimbabwe the working class needs to take power into its hands in Southern Africa. Forward to a federation of Soviet Socialist republics in Central (Sub-Saharan) and Southern Africa. This goes hand in hand with the struggle for a Soviet USA, Soviet UK, Soviet France, Soviet Germany and Soviet Japan, otherwise we shall forever be in chains.

The working class have already taken steps to establish that unity by taking the lead in the fight of the strike across borders in Europe, called by the migrant workers committees, led by African workers. There our strength is! For the international unity of the working class! No more subordination of the exploited to their executioners! The water and fire don't mix!

**One class, One struggle, One revolution! Together at once!**

**The solution - ONE revolution!**

POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY INTERNATIONALIST LEAGUE-FI (ZIMBABWE)  
POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF WORKERS INTERNATIONAL VANGUARD LEAGUE (SOUTH AFRICA)  
COMPRISING TOGETHER THE AFRICAN SECRETARIAT OF THE FLTI

SUPPORTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATION SECRETARIAT OF THE FLTI  
28.4. 2010

## Zimbabwean Textile workers struggle against retrenchments

Some of us have been working at Whitehead Textiles for more than 10 years. They have a spinning section in Kadoma, fabric section in Chegutu and hosiery in Gweru. In all we were about 1400 workers. In September 2009, the boss applied for provisional liquidation. Our own union leadership were divided, some supported us to occupy the factory and take it over, while the union secretary and his grouping in the leadership proposed to the bosses that we offer the boss that some workers would retrench themselves (voluntary retrenchment). The secretary of the union even proposed that we accept only 2 months retrenchment pay while even the pro-boss law states that we are entitled to 3 months pay.

While the leadership of the union were divided, the bosses moved the machinery from the factory, stopped paying the workers. We could not even meet to discuss our strategy as workers did not have transport money.

Our union, the ZTWU (Zimbabwean Textile Workers Union) wanted to go ahead with their congress but we stopped them, we said they must first fight our case; we are currently in negotiations with the bosses over the terms of dismissal- this is being overseen by the ministry of labour as some of the workers were on the point of using violence against the bosses. The ministry of labour stepped in to save the boss.

The boss wanted to put us on unpaid leave while he is retrenching us, a total of 577 workers were dismissed. How can we be on leave and be dismissed at the same time? The workers are paying for not being decisive to occupy the work place as now the boss has moved the plant from Gweru to Chegutu. There is no such thing that if some workers are retrenched then those who remain behind are 'safe' – look now, how will workers travel 140km to get to work, when they are still owed months of wages.

The ministry of labour hides behind supposed support on technical grounds for workers, such as saying that the bosses must pay us even for the months of 'unpaid leave' but they do nothing to enforce this, and the government allows the big companies to walk all over the workers. So the government is really for the bosses, not for us.

The textile industry here has been decimated by mass dismissals- there are still 72 companies in the National Textile bargaining council but workers are isolated and only meet rarely.

Editorial comment: The way forward?

What we need is to mobilise for a congress of all textile workers to kick out the pro-boss leadership and to install worker leaders who will advance working class interests, the same must be done at ZCTU level; our first demand must be to share all work among all who can work; this must go hand in hand with a demand to expropriate all companies that want to retrench any worker, place them under workers' control; but what must be at the centre is a demand to expropriate all imperialist companies- these are the companies who take billions in dollars of profits out of Zimbabwe and Africa every year and they leave us with the scraps- to conquer bread we need to agitate for a congress of delegates from all workplaces, delegates from the poor peasants as well as rank and file soldiers, following the heroic example in Madagascar; indeed without taking this plan to the rest of Southern Africa and linking it with a struggle for workers' power in the imperialist centres, our struggle will not advance. We need to break with the unity government, they are the local managers of imperialism.

## David Whitehead Textiles The workers struggle intensifies

The remaining workers of DWT, not affected by the retrenchment exercise, are on the streets, joining their colleagues already retrenched but who had not yet been paid their packages. The fate of the retrenched workers is before arbitration (24.05.10 but postponed again). Workers are hoping to gain the legal right to attach the assets of the company in lieu of unpaid wages. The employer has not paid wages / salaries since March 2010 to those workers still at work and owes the retrenched workers wages since early 2009. Meanwhile the employer with the able assistance of the state is moving ahead with asset stripping exported as scrap metal to South Africa.

The workers have vowed to continue the strike until the employer has paid them «give to Spartacus what belongs to Spartacus» is the slogan. However, the challenge is some elements of the retrenched workers, drunk with individualistic poison (yet to be paid their terminal packages) are refusing to unite with their colleagues - striking workers. They are jealously guarding the empty promise by the employer that they will get a massive payouts as retrenchment packages, hence the fear that if the number increases, so is the small amount it become. After some meetings with the workers, they are now united and face the bosses as a single united fist.

We cannot depend on the courts to rule for workers to take over the company but workers have to take steps to take over their own blood and sweat, with working class methods. This will open the path for the entire working class to follow suit. Workers self-defence of their gains is very important as we cannot expect the bosses to give up without recourse to their friends in the Zanu-PF-MDC regime.

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### Wynns factory to close

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After retrenching 300 workers when Woolworths unilaterally ended a 25 year contract, the rest of the workers are to be dismissed after it emerged that the Wynns company is now to close; while workers have now finally received retrenchment letters, the promise of future employment has proven to be a lie; the bloodbath of mass dismissals in the clothing and textile companies continues unabated; this is despite having an ex-clothing union leader, Ebrahim Patel, as the Minister of Economic Development. The current immediate prospect is that all uniforms for soldiers and public sector workers will now be made for direct profit by US imperialism, using Chinese slave labour. What is needed is a movement for workers to occupy and take over the companies that are closing; we need, now more than ever, an emergency workers summit, uniting workers from all workplaces, with delegates from the unemployed, from the rank and file soldiers, to call a general strike, to unite all sectors in struggle, for work for all; setting up workers fighting committees in all workplaces, with councils of workers delegates in all industrial areas and in all working class neighbourhoods. Let us expropriate all banks and other imperialist assets, without compensation, under workers control! Let us invite worker delegates from across the region, including the heroic workers and peasants from Madagascar. Forward to a federation of Soviet states of sub-saharan and southern Africa! Let us also call for the workers in the imperialist centres and in China to rise up against their butcher regimes!

# Lessons of the SA Municipal strike

## *A fighting plan to win 8 May 2010*

The first lesson to be drawn is that both the ANC and SACP are responsible for cracking down on the Samwu strikers. The Minister of local government (Co-operative governance), Sicelo Shiceka, is a leader of the SACP. Secondly, the SACP has remained quiet throughout the first 7 days of the strike (the youth wing issued a belated statement on the 7th day of the strike, hardly what we may call a vanguard role). Why is the silence significant? From the beginning the government (let's face it, Salga has no real independent existence from the government), called the strike illegal and threatened over national television, to dismiss any worker who went on strike. The government tried to interdict the strike but even this failed. Now the government tries to intimidate strikers by threatening that they must pay for so-called damages of the strike (R6.4 million). These anti-worker attacks by the SACP and ANC on the municipal strikers, are of the type last seen in the dying days of the apartheid regime.

In another strike (on the railways), SACP leader Lucky Montana told workers over public television, without even a hearing, that they were dismissed. Later he was made to eat his words when workers forced him to retract the apartheid-style dismissals and they embarked on a face-saving exercise by firing the regional Manager.

What is at the heart of the alliance of the SACP and the ANC against the workers? It is the stalinist notion of a 2-stage revolution, namely that for the so-called national democratic revolution, that the leadership of the struggle for bourgeois democratic demands are placed in the hands of the middle class and the capitalist class, in this case, the multiclass ANC. Trotsky and Lenin, in defining the permanent revolution, described how, in the colonial world, in the period of imperialist decay (the world world being divided up among the monopolies) the struggle for the basic democratic demands can only be achieved by the working class taking power. Lenin went so far as to say (State & Revolution) that upon attaining a democratic republic, the middle class and the capitalist class lose all their revolutionism. The anti-worker actions of the ANC and SACP in their attempts to crush the strike, prove Lenin correct.

Blade Nzimande got his R1 million BMW within days; JP Morgan Chase, the Bank of New York, the Wall Street gangsters, all got their billions from the 2010 stadiums and infrastructure within months; JP Morgan Chase is actually in charge of loans for Eskom and is daily plundering the working class.

On the other hand, the municipal strikers are waiting 7 years for their backpay; millions of the working class have waited many years for housing and adequate services. Millions will always be unemployed and without adequate housing. The people of Mafafeni are still waiting for their 2 schools (demolished to make way for the Mbombela stadium).

In other words, imperialism is making super-profits at the expense of the working class, and the main agent of ensuring these profits, are the SACP and ANC. Workers need to ask themselves, if the government cannot even meet a simple demand like 7 years of backpay (which must have been budgeted for), what purpose does the alliance with the ANC and SACP serve? It cannot even meet a single democratic demand! The government has for years been taking loans from the IMF and conditions of the IMF are budget cuts. So here we see directly, the government refuses to pay the municipal workers their due, but makes sure that the first expense is the massive interest payments to imperialism. Imperialism is the real leader of the ANC-SACP-Cosatu alliance, that is clear!

The strike of the municipal workers is thus not against Salga (this is only the superficial form), but against imperialism and their structural adjustment programme applied by the SACP and ANC in government.

But the SACP plays a more sinister role than the ANC, from within Cosatu, and in this case, also from within Samwu. High food, transport and electricity prices are artificially high, but the SACP 'vanguard' in Cosatu sit on their fingers. After the massive electricity increase, the World Bank orders that 20% of Eskom workers be fired and Numsa leaders are only upset that they were not consulted (no plan to fight the retrenchments). But the Samwu leaders have made a critical error by applying the stalinist policy of a stayaway after day 3 of the strike. This shows the massive influence of the SACP within the union. The stayaway policy is a recipe for defeat:

1. Firstly, workers are atomised and isolated and there is no mechanism for the mass of strikers to control the direction of the strike;
2. it opens workers to victimization as they are now isolated individuals, instead of a united mass;
3. a stayaway deliberately demobilises the strikers instead of posing a united workers stance against the bosses.
4. a stayaway opens the door for scab labour to be used by the bosses;
5. a strike is a contest for power and the bosses, if faced by the united mass of workers at every depot and municipal workplace, would be confronted by working class power; on the other hand, with a stayaway, the absence of the workers gives strength to the bosses; the bosses have huge reserves, they can wait it out. A stayaway (a self-imposed lockout), a pacifist tactic, always tips the balance of forces in the bosses favour;



6. the united working class, occupying the workplace, immediately poses the question as to who the real boss is, the worker or the capitalist (and their local managers, the SACP and ANC). Taken to its end, a general strike, with workers occupying the workplace (as opposed to a general stayaway), immediately places on the agenda the formation of strike committees at every workplace and indeed self-defence committees to defend against the red ants and other fascist tools of the state. If all sectors came out in general strike, in support of the municipal workers, as they should (just give 7 days notice), the formation of factory committees and self-defence committees at every workplace, is immediately placed on the agenda. The next step would be to set up councils of delegates from all workplaces, from communities (1 per 100 workers or unemployed), and from the soldiers. This bourgeois system, with the rule of the gangsters of Wall street, is immediately placed under challenge by the united working class.

The stayaway is a stalinist extension of the 2 stage theory as it takes power out of the hands of the working class, and places it in the hands of the middle class and capitalist class. The stayaway gives gaps to the state to crack down on individual workers and activists. Let us draw the lesson of Greece, when on the 11th March, during the biggest action of the masses in the recent history of their country, the Greek Communist party, supported by the fake left, called a stayaway and the 70 000 who came from different parts of Greece to Athens, were in isolated groups and were openly attacked and teargassed by the state as well being attacked by fascist gangs. The Greek Communist party refused to topple the government which was implementing massive wage cuts and attacks on the masses. The very government, who allowed JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs to take over the income from the docks and all export and imports of the country (the income went straight to Wall street and not even to the government, and this at massive interest rates)- the very ones who allowed the imperialists to bankrupt Greece, were protected by the stayaway and the general policy of the Greek Communist party. Soon after, such was the confidence of the imperialists in the stalinists to control the masses, they implemented further cuts in benefits and wages over the Greek masses.

We need to draw the lesson of the Chinese workers at Linzhou and Tonghua, who occupied their workplace, and forced the Chinese government to reverse the planned privatization of the metal plant and reversal of the dismissal of 20 000 of the 25 000 workers.

It may be that the Samwu worker leaders (or at least part of them) have not been conscious of the implications of the policy of the 'stayaway', so we propose this fighting action plan to win the strike.

At its recent Congress, Samwu adopted a resolution for calling a conference to 'conscientize' workers. Here, in the strike, are

the best conditions for an open conference. Here are proposed steps to immediately advance and strengthen the strike:

1. First call mass general meetings of strikers in every town and city, in order to regroup and plan the next steps such as setting up strike committees (based on the right of instant recall of any leader, national or local) and self-defence committees (on the same recall principle), for every depot or municipal workplace;
2. Occupy strategic depots and municipal workplaces and then extend the occupation to all municipal workplaces;
3. call mass meetings in every working class area and set up strike support committees, led by municipal workers.;
4. call meetings with all other unions(allocate this task to the strike committees), including soldiers unions, to give concrete support by giving 7 day notice of solidarity strikes, after a process of mass workplace meetings and election of strike/factory committees (which task should include self-defence committees, especially due to the harsh attacks by the red ants);
5. the election of local councils of delegates of employed, unemployed and soldiers to co-ordinate the solidarity strike action; the immediate calling of a national workers summit of delegates from all workplaces (unionised and non-unionised), from working class communities, including delegates from the unemployed and from soldiers, to plan a general strike, not only in support of the municipal strike, but against the entire imperialist structural adjustment programmes/plans. in every community, care should be taken to include delegates from immigrant workers so their demands are also raised at the workers summit; demands such as full backpay for municipal workers, equal pay for equal work (including immigrant workers), limiting salaries of managers and ministers to that of an average skilled worker, right of instant recall of all government representatives, sharing all wor among all who can work, increase wages when prices increase, expropriate all imperialist assets (including all commercial farms and the banks), without compensation to the capitalists, and placing them under workers control, invite delegates from Zimbabwe and Madagascar workers and rank and file soldiers to the summit, and indeed worker and rank and file soldiers delegates from all of Southern Africa.

Call general meetings, set up mass strike committees, occupy, resist, all united under one slogan: **BREAK WITH THE BOURGEOISIE! BREAK WITH THE PACIFISM OF THE SACP AND ANC!**

**Long live the fighting spirit of the woking class of Kyrgyzstan! Forward to Working class power!**

# Cosatu leaders call for 'labour peace' during the world cup

We condemn Cosatu leaders call for 'labour peace' during the world cup; this is particularly worrying because of the huge transnet workers strike currently underway and because the workers of metrorail are due to strike on Monday, several other workers have also deadlocked on the mines as well; the call by Cosatu leaders now exposes what we have suspected for some time, namely that the Cosatu leaders want workers to postpone their struggles with the capitalist class to allow the imperialists to openly plunder us all, without any resistance. This means that the strikers will be abandoned to fight in their own corners and thus weaken the

resistance to the ongoing imperialist attacks on the masses. The claim by Cosatu leaders to have persuaded Fifa to adopt 'proudly SA' agenda is a whitewash of reality: firstly the monopolies in SA are controlled by imperialism- there is no such thing as an industry that is really 'South African'. The joint approach by Cosatu leaders with the so-called manufacturing sector is another fake policy of the

SACP-Cosatu leaders, as if there are progressive manufacturing imperialists as opposed to other imperialists- all manufacture of any note in SA is controlled by the imperialist banks. Imperialism as a whole have retrenched over 170 000 workers in the first quarter of this year (in addition to the 1 million of last year)- the capitalists have not laid down their weapons for the world cup but are accelerating the attacks on the working class.

Cosatu leaders have already had an unstated policy of industrial 'peace' by allowing years of high food and petrol prices, years of high house prices, years of massive retrenchments and now the electricity price increase, without even an attempt at resistance. They have proven that they are the imperialists best friend- they must go. We call for workers to mobilise for the removal of all pro-boss, all pro-imperialist leaders from Cosatu.

We condemn the call by Cosatu leaders for a devaluation of the currency to R10.50. This is nothing but a cut in real terms of the wages by over 30%; all food and other prices are set in dollar terms and thus all the imperialist gangsters that control the means of

production will just hike their prices. For those with short memories we remind them of 2001 when the Rand devalued to R13 to the dollar- not a single job was created; in fact the food gangsters like Pick 'n Pay, hiked food prices and when the Rand returned to lower levels, they did not drop any prices.

The best friends of the imperialists today in SA, are the Cosatu and SACP leaders. It is time for the working class to break with the

capitalist ANC and SACP; break with the capitalists! Now is the time for working class independence! we call for the immediate convening of a workers summit of delegates from all workplaces, delegates from the unemployed, from the rank and file soldiers- forward to a general strike against the electricity increases, (and



other attacks by imperialism, such as high food and transport prices, against lack of services, lack of housing), before the final game of the world cup is played.

We note also that the imperialist gangster and coup-master Obama, plans to visit the opening of the world cup and parts of the games being played- we call for mass protests against his presence (down with the coups in Honduras and Haiti, down with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; down with the plunder of the Chinese working class, down with the rape of the masses in DRC, Sudan and Rwanda; down with the plunder of Greece; down with the genocidists of Palestinians)- this agent of Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan Chase is not welcome here!

WORKERS INTERNATIONAL VANGUARD LEAGUE  
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stadiums (such as the R50 million medical unit built at Somerset hospital), the new buses for each of the 32 teams, we can see that the overall cost is pushed up well over R100 bn.

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The Athlone stadium was upgraded at a cost of R400 million and used only once, for one day, during the world cup.

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While most of the public hospitals have run out of essential medication for TB, heart illness, diabetes, etc, the new 2010 medical units for the soccer millionaires, lie largely unused and full stocked. It takes months to get an appointment for an operation but all operations set for the days of world cup matches, were postponed at facilities deemed by the Fifa gangsters to be made exclusively available for the soccer prima donas.

Millions of bafana bafana T-shirts, vuvuzelas and SA flags, made in the US imperialist slave camps in China, were sold to the masses at 10 times the real price. Not only did the masses sacrifice to pay for the high cost of the tickets but once inside the stadiums and fan parks, they were forced to pay 3 times the cost of the usual high price for food.

Considering the real cost of a housing unit ( and not the over-inflated prices) of R40 000, it would have been possible to build an extra 2.5 million housing units; thus it would have been possible to have wiped out the problem of homelessness within 6 years; it was a conscious choice to keep the masses in a state of desperation and homelessness to maintain a climate in which speculatively high prices can be charged for housing and which the banks are the main beneficiaries (through their control of land, the construction companies and through the high rate of interest they charge on loans). The major shareholders of all banks locally are the handful of parasites who control the imperialist banks, mainly in Wall street, London, Paris and Berlin. This points to who the major beneficiaries were of the 2010 world cup.

The figures above exclude the over R20 bn that Fifa gains from their sponsors, the over R2 bn from the ticket sales, hospitality and licencing rights and the billions that are raked in by the parasitic betting syndicates. It also excludes billions on extra expenses on extending the police force as well as the greater militarization of the repressive apparatus, spent under the guise of the world cup but in reality preparing an iron fist to smash the growing working class discontent.

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### Imperialism was the biggest winner of the world cup

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Long before the final whistle is blown, the real winners of the world cup, the imperialists, are laughing all the way to the bank. While soon, some 'soccer genius' will hold up high a piece of gold and be made to think that they are the champions of the world, the imperialists will be patting themselves on the back for another plunder, well executed, and will be planning for their next venture (the Olympics?).

The imperialist construction companies (Murray & Roberts, WBHO, Grinaker-LTA, Group Five, BAM-Netherlands based, Bouygues- French based) were the main instruments for taking billions in profits from the working class. We examine only one but the underlying principle is the same for them all.

The main culprit among the gangsters was Murray & Roberts (which the Workers World News of ILRIG mistakenly calls 'South African'). The main shareholders of Murray & Roberts are the wall street banks such as JP Morgan Chase, State street, SSB, etc. Even Liberty Life, which is itself imperialist controlled, is also a shareholder of Murray & Roberts. Murray & Roberts had a big share of the contracts for building stadiums, the Gautrain and other capitalist infrastructure. In 2008, Murray & Roberts has contracts of R30 bn and boasted an order book of R100bn. The publicly declared profits of Murray & Roberts for 2009 was over R2 bn (the real profits are much more; eg the fact that the Gautrain increased from R5 bn to R35 bn shows that there was massive profiteering by the capitalists). Using 2007 as a base line, the increase in dividends paid out by them increased by 69% and 88% for 2008 and 2009 respectively, and this in the period of so-called world recession. Thus even on the public level the order of the profits from one of the imperialist construction companies was billions (not millions as ILRIG understates). Meanwhile, just in the past year, over a million jobs were lost and there has been a huge nett job loss over the past 6 years. Even the capitalist ANC government admitted that many of these job losses were not even justified by capitalist standards; the 'champions of the working class' the Cosatu leaders merely shed crocodile tears while refusing to organise a united resistance against the capitalist onslaught.

The imperialists are already making propaganda about so-called xenophobic attacks after the world cup; what they are really signalling is that they know that they have only diverted the attention of the masses for a short while from their sufferings and that the masses will soon take the path of mass resistance, as shown in Greece and Kyrgyzstan; the imperialists are preparing fascist gangs to divide the working class and whipping up nationalist sentiment against our fellow black slaves from the rest of Africa, as the imperialists had instigated in 2008 when the Zimbabwean masses were on the point of a revolutionary overthrow of imperialist lackey Mugabe.

The major beneficiaries of the 2010 world cup are the imperialist banks. The ANC-SACP-Cosatu leadership, by their role in promoting the world cup, are nothing but the lackeys and agents of imperialism. The working class needs to break with the bourgeoisie; this means breaking with the alliance with the pro-imperialist ANC and SACP and the building of a revolutionary working class party as part of a revolutionary International; for us this is the refounding of the Fourth International.

**Super-exploitation- feel it, it is here!**

**Revolution- feel it, it is coming!**

1.7.2010  
WORKERSINTERNATIONAL VANGUARD LEAGUE  
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# ***Super-exploitation- feel it, it is here! We expose how imperialism are the main beneficiaries of the 2010 Fifa World cup.***



The capitalist media have run a 6 year campaign, sweeping up the middle class and the working class with it about the supposed benefits of the Fifa 2010 soccer world cup in South Africa. The efforts the imperialists have put into promoting the world cup is much like they do when they sweep up the nationalist sentiments in a population to support fascism. Cosatu leaders served on the cup organizing committee, providing the perfect cover for the imperialists to plunder the country in broad daylight. Despite many thousands of workers putting themselves into debt to buy tickets (partly as a result of the support by the Cosatu leaders of the cup), the capitalists still could not fill the stadiums. The SACP and their fraction in the leadership of Cosatu were pushing for 'labour peace' during the world cup but they were defeated by the workers on strike in the municipal and dock and rail sectors. The SACP leaders were not completely defeated; these leaders still managed to postpone/call off the general strike action against the electricity hikes (the massive attack on the working class of a 34% increase in tariff has come into effect on 1 July despite a scheduled meeting of the capitalists, government and worker leaders on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010 to 'negotiate' over it).

The first point that we can learn from the world cup is that in general, if the capitalist wants to sell something, they will paint it in rosy colours, exaggerating its qualities, until they have your money in hand; afterwards, when negative sentiment arises, the capitalists will even make money out of this. Thus the national soccer team was painted in advance as potential 'world beaters'; some soccer players were even compared to Einstein. The very capitalists who could not be bothered how workers get home from work and that millions of workers spend hours getting to and from work on a public transport system that woefully inadequate, suddenly became the 'champions' of public transport, creating a special transport system (with the help of their lackeys, the SA

government) of buses every 5 minutes and trains running up to 2am in the mornings, so that the capitalists could efficiently rake in the billions of profits from the cup. The national flag was promoted as a symbol of 'unity of the nation'. We will show here that the national flag really represents capitalist imperialist interests and that there is a fundamental divide in society between the working class, the majority, and the handful of capitalists.

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## Counting the costs

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A conservative estimate of the costs is about R100 billion. We arrive at this estimate through the following: The Gautrain project is now estimated to cost **R35 Billion** (after having started as a R5 billion project). The 5 new stadiums cost about R3 billion each, a total of **R15bn**. The 5 refurbished stadiums together cost a further **R5 bn**. The national and provincial road budget was R17bn in 2004-5; if we estimate that a 'real' increase would have doubled it over the period to 2010 this brings us to R34 bn for 2009-2010; but the actual budget was R49 bn, a R15 bn extra for the last year; a conservative estimate on road and transport for this past 6 year period, due to the 'world cup' is thus a further **R20 bn**. The upgrading of the airports cost a further **R6bn**. A further **R15bn** must be added if we consider the building of a new terminal at OR Tambo airport and the new airport in Durban. If we add the cost of the new hotels and flats, many of which are still vacant, that were built under the guise of the influx of 'tourists' in 2010, as well as the mostly empty 'rapid' transport bus network, the construction of 'fan parks', the upgrading of several training facilities for the teams (largely unused), the upgrading of medical facilities close to