

Socialist Worker!

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2010 BUDGET

WORKING CLASS BEWARE OF A BOGUS BUDGET.

Elitist Budget is not for us, it is for Politicians, the Rich, elites and capitalists

The 2011 national budget by Minister of Finance Mr. Tendai Biti had positive gains for the social services, i.e., health and education. But it would be naïve to pretend not to see the thinly veiled attack upon the poor unleashed in the Budget presentation on Thursday 25 November 2010. We seek to expose the hypocrisy behind the publicity that was so over-zealously praised by the bourgeoisie media and politicians as pro-poor especially basing on a paltry handout that was promised civil servants and the nation.

The salary increments to public sector workers did not come on a silver platter neither does it fool anyone to think Biti and the ruling class have any benevolence in them especially after the minister gained notoriety for advocating for a wage freeze early this year. Indeed the 100% salary increase came as a result of massive struggles carried out by civil servants for the major part of this year. As a comparison the private sector workers whose struggles were less keen only saw at most a 10% salary increment. To further expose Biti's cunning, he set the tax-free threshold at \$225. Precisely that's where him and his fellow ruling class scum desired the salary scale to be (if only it weren't for next years polls and the militants demonstrated by government employees this year.)

The conclusion is that action works. Jambanja ndizvo. Now further action is more necessary than ever if we are to beat the Poverty datum line which is still a further \$200 away. Furthermore Biti's Budget statement has remained virtually silent on the salaries of MPs and Judges. These were just removed from the civil servants' Salary Services Bureau but we were not told their salaries. We Demand fairness, transparency and justice, Mr Biti! Tell us how much are they taking from the tax payers please, hopefully you agree with us since you are from a democratic movement.

Student Loan Fund. The birth pangs of privatisation

Biti promised to resuscitate the Student Loan scheme, to that end he set up \$15 million. Never could he have found a more explicit way of privatising tertiary education than what he exposed in his budget presentation. Students might celebrate but they need only question why the government has decided to partner itself with a bank if it was so sympathetic. From experience banks would be very crucial when it comes to following up on creditors (read poor students). And we need not mention commercial bank rates! **Page 8**



Biti was against salary increments to these civil servants the whole year

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Vashandi VePasi Rino Batanai! Vasebenzi Vomhlaba Vambanani!
WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!



News of the World

MPAWUZ

Workers Go on Strike at Lancet Labs.

Lancet Laboratories (formerly Clinical Laboratory) workers downed their tools down during the first weeks of November over pay increase. The strike was conducted after the Lancet bosses management declined to negotiate with workers' legitimate demands for cost of living adjustment. The bosses denied to award salary increment and unilaterally froze workers salaries for a period of six months on the reasons that they intended to expand the company premises during the said six months. Workers were saying that expansion was not a priority considering their low salaries. They were demanding an adjustment of 30% and a housing allowance of \$100. Currently the lowest paid worker is earning \$386 inclusive of transport.

There is great need for workers to mobilize and strengthen themselves to put a stop to victimization in all sectors of our medical industry and build a campaign against victimization of workers leaders as bosses are likely to go on victimizing workers thus killing the workers struggle. Shinga Mushandi Shinga.

Credit goes to the militant Lancet workers as they had sent a clear message to other bosses throughout the country that its now pay back time, MUSHANDI AMUKA

Tecla Shingai

Medical Professional & Allied Workers Union of Zimbabwe(MPAWUZ)

FRENCH WORKERS AND STUDENTS STAND STRONG AGAINST THE STATE

Millions of French workers, Sarkozy calculated that the supported by students, joined protesters would become



French Students take to the streets

strikes and marches against plans to savage their pensions with France's right wing government trying harsh state repression to break this huge movement.

President Nicolas Sarkozy unleashed his attack dogs—the riot police to carry out physical assaults on pickets at oil refineries. This was backed up by the threat of long periods in jail for those who dared defy them. The army was also used to break some of the strikes.

At the time of going to press, parliament had passed the pension laws which Sarkozy immediately signed into law. One of the reasons why the government was successful was the failure of the union leaders to escalate the strikes and demonstrations. Instead they sought to wind these down.

The new laws will rise the minimum pension age to 62—and 67 for many workers—as well as to increase the amount workers have to pay in.

weary and demoralised and their leaders betray the struggle whilst students go on holidays. But this was by no means inevitable, as shown by the thousands of school and university students who took to the streets across France in a day of protest. "In 2006 the holidays did not stop the revolution against the CPE 'first job' contract which

targeted young people—and protest went on to win then," Djamila, a school student from Paris, told *Socialist Worker*. "We're all going on the streets this week".

"It's about pensions, it's about young people not getting jobs because workers are kept on into their old age, it's about Sarkozy's dirty government. We have a slogan—'Unemployed at 25, exploited at 67. No! No! No!'"

What was needed to win was to build for an open-ended general strike, as the militancy and support was there. One of the storm centres of the revolt was the giant Grandpuits oil refinery near Paris. A CGT union member told *Socialist Worker* about the attacks they have faced—and their determination to keep fighting.

He said, "Early in the morning on Friday of last week the police came to clear away our blockade at Grandpuits. We have been on strike, and occupying the site, since 11 Octo-

ber as part of the revolt against Sarkozy. We know we are in the frontline, that our pressure is the biggest one on the government. Over the last fortnight we have built up a list of other workers and local residents that we can call on in an emergency.

"So when the cops came we quickly had nearly 100 people defending our blockade. It was fantastic, real solidarity. For a while the police withdrew. But then they came back in greater numbers. Eventually they broke our blockade—using the strongest violence. They injured three of our members, one of them seriously.

"All this was backed up by a court order to 'requisition' workers. This says you could be jailed for up to five years if you don't go back to work. It's said to be about 'defending the national interest'. It's about class power. Under this threat we had to resume loading some oil supplies. But we're not giving up. Now we've moved a little away from the plant and are trying to block roads. We've had some success. There are still big petrol shortages. Really we need everyone out. The government should not be allowed to get away with taking away our right to strike.

Even if defeated for now, French workers and students have shown the way forward in tackling neoliberalism ... struggle is the only way forward.

Edited copy of article by Charlie Kimber – Socialist Worker Party-UK

EGYPT:

Tension reaches boiling point

The tensions in Egypt are reaching boiling point. The crisis of the regime is reflected in a number of splits and growing opposition. The emergence of Mohamed Elbaradei on the political scene signifies an important change in the struggle against the regime. Until now, the masses have lacked a national point of reference to connect up the different struggles, but this is now changing.

Revolution is developing just beneath the surface. In the Middle East, Egypt is a key country. Not only is it the most populated Arab country and a strategic pillar of support for imperialism, it also has a strong working class with militant traditions. Over the last few years, the Mubarak dictatorship has been shaken by strikes and protests, but it has become increasingly clear that all factors are pointing in the direction of revolution.

The economic situation in Egypt is becoming more acute and unbearable as each day passes.

Booming inflation eats into the living standard of the masses, while a small elite of wealthy bankers, industrialists and state bureaucrats continue to enrich themselves as is happening in Zimbabwe. The gap between rich and poor is as big as ever and while wages have been stagnating, prices have soared.

Elbaradei has called for boycotting the parliamentary elections in November. At an iftar meal to celebrate the end of Ramadan, Elbaradei told 200 activists that: "Anyone who participates in the vote, either as a candidate or as a voter, goes against the national will." He urged "civil disobedience" to force the regime to grant political reforms. "If the whole people boycott the elections totally, it will be, in my view, the end of the regime," he said, adding that he will not stand for President if democratic reforms are not introduced.

For the masses, this is seen as a call for mobilisation. They sense that Elbaradei's campaign can be a vehicle for protest and a force to carry through their demands by uniting against the regime in a national campaign.

The demands for an end to the State of Emergency, the right to organise unions, fair elections and so on are demands that are supported wholeheartedly by the Marxists. At the same time, it must be made clear that in order to fight against the dictatorship; one must fight against the material forces upholding it: the capitalist class, the top bureaucracy in the state and the army, as well as foreign capital and interests of imperialism.

The situation in Egypt is pregnant with revolution.. A ferocious fight will open up within the ruling elite. But the overthrow of dictatorship in Egypt will not solve all issues. On the contrary, it will mostly serve to pose

them even more sharply. No form of bourgeois democracy will be able to solve the question of price hikes, poverty, unemployment, military regime and in fact even the very question of bread. These are only questions that can be fully solved only when the whole system of capitalism and private property is abolished.

The period up to the presidential elections will be one of reparation for the revolutionary events which are to come. The Egyptian revolution will dramatically change the course of events in the Middle East, North Africa and on a world scale.

By Hamid Alizadeh and Frederik Ohsten

UK & EUROPE

Students Revolt & Fight Education Cuts

Students defy police in UK recently

These days are the days of revolt—and it is right to revolt. Across Britain young people rose up against the attacks on education.

UK students have revolted against £9,000 university fees, the closing off of universities to all but the rich, and the abolition of the EMA allowance that 16-18 year olds rely on to go to college. It is also about the way the Tories are ripping up people's futures. It showed that the angry march and the occupation of Tory headquarters on 10 November was not a one-off event. There were as many if not more people involved this time than last time. And it wasn't just in London.

There were major protests in Leeds, Bristol, Glasgow, Manchester, Oxford, Liverpool, Sheffield, Brighton, Newcastle and many others. Tens of thousands of students, especially school students, took to

universities are being closed off to them by soaring fees. They know the cuts mean that only a few will get more than low-paid jobs. What does the government expect them to do—wave dole cards in joyous celebration of the royal wedding? Working class young people are getting hammered—and that's why they're fighting back. We know of at least 15 colleges where there have been student occupations. This is a great way to carry forward the fight.

The anger we have seen in Europe—in Greece, France and Portugal—has now come to London twice in a month. There will be much more protest in the future. Wednesday's fightback was the right response to a government for the rich by the rich. The vicious budget rammed through in Ireland at the same time as the student protests gives a sense of the future here unless there is resistance. Wednesday's protest must be a launchpad for further resistance. We need to make Tory education secretary Michael Gove choke on his words that this government isn't going to listen to street protests. There need to be occupations and further big protests before Christmas. These will be discussed at a national co-ordination meeting of students this Sunday, 28 November (see page 4). But the resistance can't be left to students and school students. Everyone needs to join the fightback. Trade union leaders have made speeches against the government. We need action to stop the hurricane of attacks on working people. The Tories and their lackey Lib Dem allies have launched class war. It's time for us all to fight back.

Protest across Europe

On Wednesday other workers and students were also fighting back. A general strike shook Portugal, where the government wants to slash public sector wages. Joao Proenca, head of the UGT union federation said, "If the fight against the deficit sinks the country, we have achieved nothing." In Italy some students stormed the senate after a march through Rome against education cuts. One declared, "Today we are taking back our future."

In Ireland, the government unveiled a brutal package of cuts to pay for its latest IMF bailout. This will slash welfare by £2.5 billion, increase student fees and cut the public sector pay bill by £1 billion—yet corporation tax remains a low 12.5 percent. Protesters in Dublin forced the Merrion Hotel, where IMF representatives are staying, to close. A huge demonstration is planned for Saturday. www.socialistworker.co.uk (29 November 2010)

ZINASU ON FRESH START 2011 CAMPAIGN

Continued From PAGE 1

ZINASU President

Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) at a historical student convention held from the 13-15 August at the traditional YWCA Kambuzuma Harare collectively resolved among other things that all institutions of higher learning must close forthwith until solemn reforms are ushered in the education sector.

The union's position has been received with mixed feelings by all the stakeholders of the education sector. The position is however a principled position that deserves to be unanimously embraced by all in the interest of national building. (Continued on PAGE 3)

The state of the higher education sector is recipe of future social havoc as it is creating a society of illegitimate inequalities. The current state of the education sector is also unsustainable.

Institutions of higher learning are being forced to operate mainly from funds received from the disadvantaged students and insignificant funds from the government. Most students are failing to pay the fees and this has over the years weakened the capacity of these institutions to deliver quality education. The few students who can afford to pay fees are not getting value for their money as their funds alone are not enough to revitalize the education sector.

Education has been a key for the majority of Zimbabweans to escape from the vicious circle of absolute poverty. Today the disadvantaged but deserving majority are being denied Higher education due to the discriminatory fee structures that were set by the contemporary insensitive inclusive regime. The sons and daughters of both the working class and the peasant farmers have now been relegated to a life of perpetual poverty. The talented but poor will not peacefully coexist with those who illegitimately amassed wealth at their expense.

The incumbent political and economic leaders of Zimbabwe are all products of free tertiary education and they climbed the social ladder from the most disadvantaged communities to the affluent of society through education. Denying the talented poor majority the right to education is denying Zimbabwe the able leaders that can transform our economy and change the fortunes of our troubled nation. The Robert Mugabes, Tendai Bitis and Strive Masiwas of this generation are in Manzimnyama, Dotito and Chicualacuala where they can hardly afford a decent meal let alone the \$US600 that is being demanded for them to enroll as a Law, Medicine or Economics student at any state University in Zimbabwe. But still education has to be funded.

The capacities of institutions of higher learning have been weakened over the years because of under funding. The quality of graduates that are being produced is compromised and this will destroy the capacity of our industries to drive our economy to greater heights. The nation is turning a blind eye to the sad reality that all is not well in the education sector and our government is now living in an

assumed comfort, normalizing the abnormal scenario. A radical stance is therefore imperative to force all stakeholders to revive funding towards education.

ZINASU has been forcing institutions to allow all students to write exams with or without paying fees. The union has come to the realization that this is unsustainable if government and the rest of the corporate world do not chip in to fund education. The students of Zimbabwe expect all college authorities to support the noble cause of temporarily closing institutions and awaken responsible authorities (the government and corporate world) to shoulder their responsibility of funding education.

ZINASU's piecemeal measures of protesting against individual college authorities have not been yielding

FREE EDUCATION FOR ALL!



results since it has only resulted in students being suspended and expelled worsening the condition of the already affected students. The students are the major stakeholder in the tertiary institutions and peacefully withdrawing will put to a halt all operations and necessitate dialogue. We hold the key to our emancipation!

The administrators in our institutions have failed to institute measures that ensure transparency and accountability in the way they manage funds and this has scared away potential sponsors from our education sector. Tertiary institutions have been rocked with numerous incidence of corruption and this is not healthy for a sector that desperately needs significant funding from the corporate world.

The capitalist curricular that is being dished out in tertiary institutions is also alien to the realities of our society as a nation. The graduates that are being produced are materialistic and self serving and they are not of much value to our nation in this period of rebuilding.

The governance of state institutions is partisan this has resulted in unbridled victimization of all students who are thought to be against Mugabe who is chancellor of all universities. 70% of the university councils of all state institutions are all political appointees. We were hoping that the coming in of the inclusive government would initiate reforms to these anomalies since the appointment of all senior civil servants is supposed to be by consensus by all principals in the Inter Party Agreement. There is however no debate to this regard and Mugabe continue to unilaterally appoint Vice Chancellors and members of University council.

To correct all the ills raised above it is therefore vital that the radical but progressive stance of forcing the closure of all institutions be executed "by any means necessary" and drag all stakeholders to a roundtable discussion. The products of such an engagement will be (a) More funding for the education sector culminating in free education for deserving students (b) Accountable administrators that will not abuse funds meant to develop our campuses (c) A curricular compatible to the realities of our society (d) The reinstatement of all suspended and expelled students including reparations for these traumatized victims and respect for academic rights and freedoms (e) Professional administrators appointed on the basis of merit not loyalty to support the demands of ZINASU in the new constitution that are

Access to Free education to be infringed in the bill of rights

An education commission that is non partisan to be established, that will appoint all state Vice Chancellors and Principals in state institutions to be established in the new constitution

An educational policy that will be an Act of Parliament, to be crafted by all interested parties that includes, college authorities, student leaders [ZINASU] and all SRC leadership of all forty four tertiary institutions in Zimbabwe. Representatives from the Ministry of education sports and culture and Ministry of higher and tertiary education, the policy will seek to redress students grievances' such as

In pursuing this noble cause our just cause we neither seek to please anyone nor await for approval from any quarters beyond our lecture rooms but we remain guided by our desire to see a robust and just education system.

ZINASU is rolling out a campaign to implement the resolution of the 13-15 August convention to bring a fresh start in the education sector by 2011. The ZINASU revolutionary train will move around the country beginning on a massive sensitization and mobilization drive as we seek to implement the 13-15 August resolution. The revolution is underway stand up and be counted. Together we can smash privatization!!!

Cde Obert Masaraure is the President of the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU)

2010 in Brief.**Students Suspended for Activism!**

The fascist administrations running university and college education in Zimbabwe have lately demonstrated the full extent of their hatred for student activism when on 08 November 2010; the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe(UZ)Prof. Chipo Dyanda indefinitely suspended the acting chairperson of the Student Representative Assembly, Tinashe Chisaira for calling for Students Union elections. The charge stated that the third year law student had not consulted the Dean of Students first despite the absence of such a provision in the Constitution of the Students Union.

Furthermore the year 2010 has seen the suspension of a total of three students for standing up against injustice at UZ alone. In April Joshua Chinyere and Wisdom Mgagara were given two-year suspension for showing solidarity with Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE) students who had been denied the right to write exams. In that demonstration also, Ian Makone and Tashinga Mudzengi were given one-year suspensions from BUSE. Then in August Tryvine Musokera and Ste-



ven Tshuma were suspended from the Midlands State University for leading a student demonstration. In November again Zivanai Muzorodzi was fined by the Great Zimbabwe University for activism and solidarity with

Students Union, University of Zimbabwe: White Elephant or No Future Under fascism?

other students in Masvingo.

However students must not be intimidated by such fascist onslaughts upon their rights. No more students should be victimized for standing up to a system that is so cowardly and demonic to deny them independent unionism. Students Union have been crucial in Hungary, South Africa, Yugoslavia in the struggles against totalitarianism and fascism. Reinstate All Expelled and Suspended Student Activists Now! Students unite and fight for your future

You Are All Invited!

A Day of revolutionary discussions and debates.

Marxism 2010

11 DECEMBER

Crossroads House, 43 J. Nyerere Way, Harare

Theme:

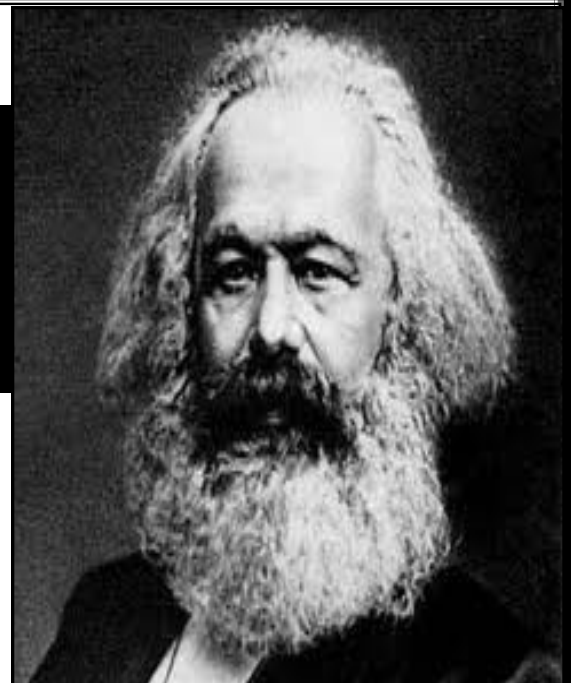
DEFENDING THE REAL MARXIST TRADITIONS & THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Speakers from International Socialist Organization, Social Movements, Trade Unions, ZINASU & Many More.

Adm \$1 (Inc Lunch)

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Karl Marx()

COPAC PROCESSES A SHAM!

The aftermaths of Constitutional Parliamentary Committee (COPAC) consultations in Harare and Chitungwiza have left everyone in a dilemma. The prevailing position of most pro-democracy groups locally and internationally as well as the Zimbabwean populace has been that the constitutional process will usher in a new season of stability and progress whilst laying the foundation for an acceptable political dispensation. But Alas! The blinkers are falling off and a more sober analysis of the situation can now expose the futility and folly of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) arrangement imposed on the working people of Zimbabwe.

Violence and Consultations.

In statistics availed by COPAC in their bulletin, about 95% of the consultations were successfully done and 5% were marred by political violence and intimidation mainly by ZANU-PF. Harare and Chitungwiza were the worst scenarios resulting in the death of two MDC activists in Mbare, beatings, journalist-barring and arrests. The MDC in most cases was greatly disorganized and no proper mobilization was done as the party relied on hiring teams instead of appealing for popular support in its own back yard. On the other hand ZANU-PF went all on a full offensive bussing hooligans, drilling cadres on key party positions to defend as well as harassment and intimidation methods to cow the any opposition into submission. Consequently the positions which got recorded are those of ZANU-PF. As a result the MDC are being forced to fight and advocate for an unpopular and elitist position of a negotiated constitution as opposed to a 'people-driven' constitution. This is unfortunately coming out well for Mugabe and ZANU-PF as this will give them ammunition for their usual populist rhetoric.

Democratic United Front (DUF)

The *Take Charge* coalition of the civil society led by the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA), Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) and the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) has found some level of vindication for their position of non-engagement in the COPAC process. A section of the working people under the banner of the Democratic United Front (DUF) campaigned vigorously for the inclusion of socio-economic rights in the Bill of Rights. Their red posters in and around the city centre caught the attention of the state newspaper *The Herald*. A feedback meeting organized by DUF exposed the disgusting disregard for working people's issues by both ZANU-PF and MDC-T who focused mainly on power grabbing gymnastics and diversionary argu-

ments such as abortion and gay rights.

The next fundamental stage is the drafting stage where a draft will be presented to Parliament for debate and issuance to a referendum. It is still imperative for working people to continue mobilizing and fighting for the right to strike and freedom of assembly so as to pave way for more direct confrontational approach in the struggle for bread and butter issues and

to repel neo-liberal policies which appear to be the cornerstones of the GNU's economic policy.

DUF will conclude the final stage with COPAC and use the referendum as the first launch of a bitter fight against neo-liberalism which struggle will go beyond the constitutional making process. Aluta Continua! **By Cde Simukai**



Riot police drive people from a Copac outreach venue

COPAC VIOLENCE...

Fascist ZRP & Zanu PF thugs bash ISO comrades at COPAC Meeting.

Five comrades were attacked by Zanu PF thugs at a COPAC outreach meeting held at Hatcliffe Hall on Sunday 31 October 2010. International Socialist Organisation members Peter Garanewako (Harare Poly), James Katso (UZ), Malvern Hobwana (ZINASU Harare Chair), Tinashe Mutyaso (UZ) and Cde Zengeya (Mbare) were chased from the outreach venue by Zanu Pf thugs who had been angered by the comrades' outspokenness. The five fled back to seek refuge from the police. But the police inhumanely ordered them to go back and face the bloodthirsty ruling party supporters. When the comrades tried to plead for police protection, they were then detained for public violence! They were taken to ZRP Hatcliffe where they were held from 1600hrs till midnight. They were then released without being charged and told to come back the following morning.

On Monday they were warned in the presence of their lawyers that the police will proceed by way of summons. Commenting on the conduct of the fascist police and thugs, Cde Mutyaso said, 'Zanu PF must not monopolise the constitution. Anyone should and must give their views. A Constitution is not someone's' breakfast document!'

This unprofessional pattern of fascist ZRP conduct is neither new nor surprising. During the past abandoned COPAC outreach meetings in September, Cde Tecla Shingai (ISO Gender Coordinator) was detained in Sunningdale for exercising her right to be heard during a constitutional meeting. We say no to the presence of partisan fascist police and youth militias at public gatherings

ISO SPLIT:**MUTERO AND TIGWE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS...****OUTGROWTH OF OPPORTUNISM**

Cunning hypocrisy!

Although we do not want to waste any time on the counter-revolution that split our International Socialist Organisation (ISO) in late 2008, recent happenings in the turncoats camp merit some comments.

Were there any convincing ideological reasons for Cdes Mutero and Tigwe to lead a split from the ISO or it was merely high time for opportunists to leave and hunt for their plunder elsewhere? Recent events utterly expose the slanders and cunning hypocrisy that preceded their departure from ISO.

What's happening to the "pure revolutionaries" now?

Within two years the breakaway comrades have "hitch-hiked" from one tendency to another. What are they looking for? They left ISO to form what they called ISO Zimbabwe. Then they joined the Leninist International Fraction (FLTI), then the Revolutionary International League –Fourth International (RIL-FI) in their nomadic chase for money and opportunities.

Now they have split again, the Mutero faction has remained RIL-FI whilst and the Tigwe, Manjonjo and Chidavaenzi led faction has turned ISO –ZIM again. What confusion! Reasons for the split are none other than monetary gain and political opportunism. Mutero accuses Tigwe of stealing US\$6 000 from a poor people's housing co-operative in Glen Norah, as well as being an MDC-T front and hitching up with a splinter grouping of the FLTI in the USA and New Zealand in order to get money. Tigwe in turn accuses Mutero of unilaterally changing the name of the organisation to RIL-FI in order to get a salary as part of the FLTI African secretariat, and also getting money under false pretence that he had been evicted from his house for political reasons and that he is a leading member of a reformist outfit called Zimbabwe Action.

Before the 2008 split we suspended Tigwe from the ISO for secretly remaining as a leading member of MDC-T in Glen Norah against ISO resolutions. On readmission he was again soon re-

suspended for stealing organisation money, triggering the December 2008 split. At the time of the split we made it clear that the real reasons why Mutero and Tigwe were leading the split were crude opportunism, greedy and taking advantage of a serious unevenness of ideological development in our organisation. The two wanted to turn ISO into a quasi pro-MDC NGO to be used mainly as a vehicle for accumulating money from imperialist donors and unsuspecting left international organisations because of the Zimbabwe crisis. Hence Tigwe is still in the MDC -T Glen Norah district structures and even worked in the MDC Constituency office there.

One needs to go no further than the recent flood of Mutero-Tigwe correspondences on the internet to realise that there is nothing fundamentally different between the two other than concerns of who should have the most advantageous position to plunder and loot from unsuspecting regional or international left organisations and western imperialists.

We shoulder the blame for having provided a breeding ground for such opportunists by failing to adequately develop our comrades ideologically.

Firstly: The social composition of the ISO. Before the year 2000 the ISO used to recruit many of its members from organised labour, i.e. trade unions and colleges and universities. From the year 2001 to 2009, which was a period of extraordinary economic catastrophe in Zimbabwe, the ISO went through a massive change in terms of its social composition. We could not continue depending on recruiting from colleges and trade unions for such "institutions" were largely decimated by the crisis. At the height of the economic and social crisis in 2008, many colleges became virtually closed or non-functional whilst many "worker activists" left employment going into the informal sector, rural areas or leaving the country.

This posed huge challenges for a tiny revolutionary organisation, with an even more tiny cadreship base, that is losing its few

cadres at a time that was ripe for working class resistance struggle. For survival we had no option than to look for alternative "islands of life" that is social movements which mostly were constituted of the unemployed women, youths and AIDS/HIV activists, who whilst very enthusiastic for struggle were very weak politically and ideologically and particularly vulnerable to the politics of commodification of resistance or bribes from donor – funded civic society groups. This meant we had a mixture of a very small and ever decreasing layer of experienced comrades and a bigger layer of quite inexperienced comrades.

The new situation posed on us two challenges: that is attempting to train this newer and politically weak membership in a context of very low class struggles and at the same time trying to be visible in the broader democratic struggles against the Zanu PF dictatorship.

Secondly, such high levels of ideological unevenness combined with rampant poverty amongst comrades due to unemployment and hyper-inflation and in the context of rampant bribing of activists by the bourgeois opposition and civic society groups, "**commodification of resistance**," provided a fertile breeding ground for opportunism, i.e. increasing pressure that ISO be like the other social movements and civic groups by providing "something" for sustenance or survival for its members, especially income generation projects and payment for attending meetings and activities.

Thus it became very much easier for a clique of opportunists in ISO to take advantage of the desperation and underdevelopment amongst many comrades to mobilise against the ISO leadership and its revolutionary programme in an attempt to turn around the ISO into an NGO which they would use to lure donor money. This is the context in which the October 2008 elections which were won by the opportunists were done. However, the ISO principled leadership was able to subsequently win back the support of the majority of members and branches, leading the opportunists to split. In this they were helped by the Cape Town based WIVL, which took an unprincipled and opportunist position to back them.

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MUTERO AND TIGWE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS .CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

This was done in the hope of recruiting a Zimbabwean section, a decision they have lately come to regret.

For our part in our desperate fight to get back hard-won asserts necessary for revolutionary work but now in danger of being sold for a penny by these opportunist renegades, we made some mistakes such as getting the comrades who had stolen virtually all our property, arrested and taking the disputes before the bourgeois courts. However, this was a desperate temporary manoeuvre and we withdrew the charges at the earliest possible opportunity. Remember even, Bolshevik leader V.I.Lenin was once travelled to Russia in a

sealed train under an arrangement with the Germany imperial state in 1917.

The ISO has continued with its revolutionary work of rebuilding a socialist, anti-imperialist and anti-neoliberal movement in Zimbabwe against a rapacious and neoliberal ruling class represented in both parties of the rich and capitalists, Zanu PF and MDC. Today our focus is on rebuilding a new cadreship increasingly drawn from a new radicalising layer of students and workers as well as developing the ideological consciousness of

the best of activists from the social movements who were unshaken by the winds of opportunism.

Don't confuse the working class please. Viva Socialism!

National Co-ordinating Committee, International Socialist Organisation (ISO)

POEM

These Unruly Empires

If the man inside your poems dwells in mansions
 Multiple storey and bungalows well roomed
 You are forever doomed
 But if he talks of poverty depriving girls their morality
 Making homesteads kindergartens of stubborn shrieking bastards
 Giving fathers and mothers premature dotage
 If he talks of the suppressed worker's struggle
 Oppression and repression that facilitates exploitation
 Of neo-liberalism –a conduit to siphon peoples funds
 Of the vanished sceptres of liberty
 The scimitars of censorship slicing people's freedom-
 Then you are well groomed
 The wicked reign rains terror and pretended errors
 Lies and cries characterise their eras
 This system hurts, dislocates, and destroys
 Throws and juggles the poor and workers like toys
 The system kills, the system steals
 "Let's rise up and fight against unruly empires
 That draws and sucks the blood of our life like demonic vampires"

By Cde Judah Takaitei

WORKING CLASS BEWARE OF A BOGUS BUDGET CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

DESIRABLE BUDGET?

Frankly, the budget allocations for the crucial social services sector of education and health are far from desirable neither do they meet the crucial needs of these sectors. Education demands in Zimbabwe go beyond \$400m, likewise with Health where no provision was made for the availability of Anti-retroviral Drugs. *Penga Murwere Penga*. But the budget was never funded by people who rob the nation of its wealth, ie, the rich capitalists and pro-imperialist multinationals. The 2010 budget is being funded by the poor while the rich benefits. A clear illustration is provided in the table below:



Minister of Finance, Tendai Biti (R)

So the Budget is being openly funded by the working class and the poor as they go to buy their daily bread(vat) and when they earn their salaries(pay as you earn) and not capitalists who have stricken it rich in our diamond fields of Chiadzwa or past opposition sponsors, the western imperialists..The class war is advancing in Zimbabwe but unfortunately the working class has not been militant enough. *Time is now ripe for the formation of a socialist workers party in Zimbabwe that is rooted in the day to day struggles of the poor, workers and students.*

Cdes Lenin Chisaira & Oscar Simbi.

2010 BUDGET.		
Who pays	The Working Class	The Bosses
Tax	VAT -\$663, 3m (37%) PAYE-\$329, 8m (18, 4%)	Corporate tax-\$162m (9%) Royalties-\$88, 1m (7, 6%)
TOTAL	993, 1m (55, 4%)	250, 1m (16, 6%)

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

"...Thirdly, unlike the Patriotic Front, MDC has no real fallback position if the deal collapses. Its only guarantor is a mediator who has now been ousted. Having consistently neutralized the mass action route, MDC has solely relied on the western sanctions. But MDC is not in full control of this. Locked in a hotel room and virtually coerced by Mbeki and Mugabe to sign there and then or risk immediate collapse of the negotiations, Tsvangirai seems to have signed a deal that does not meet the full approval of his western allies..."

"With economic siege continuing, especially in an environment of global economic crisis, the deal looks very fragile and may unravel sooner rather than later. Popular acceptance of such an expensive and over bloated coalition government, proportionately the biggest in the world in a country with the world's highest inflation, is likely to wane rapidly if the promised economic recovery fails to take place, with the draft national constitution a possible flash point. At such stage Mugabe's continued control of the security apparatus, the state and treasury will be decisive and the opposition's nakedness and foolishness in signing such deal exposed."

Socialist Worker (Z), January 2009

The above prediction has indeed come to pass. The GNU saved the Zanu PF dictatorship from an impending social, economic and political implosion as foreshadowed by collapsing public utilities and rioting junior soldiers. The hyper-inflation dragon was tamed and Zimbabwe's international isolation largely removed. Tsvangirai himself went the world over, as recent as September 2010 in an interview with South African *E-News*, preaching about how Mugabe had reformed, was a well-meaning statesman worried about his legacy and so forth. He has now turned and is bleating a different song!

We now in fact seem to be reaching the point predicted when Mugabe, no longer needing the GNU would flex his muscles and wee on the GNU. With a fairly stabilized economy, and Tsvangirai having de-mobilized and confused his supporters, the hardliners in the Mugabe regime are now again on the ascendancy and clearly on the offensive, using the constitutional question as the launch-pad. Mugabe has now called for elections saying the GNU has become intolerable for him and his Zanu PF. Prime Minister Tsvangirai has also told his supporters to prepare for elections in

2011, although he is insisting that these will be under a new constitution. Although Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara has said this is grandstanding, events in the last few weeks show that the momentum for elections might be gathering its own pace and with increasing possibility could in fact happen.

Why Elections in 2011

Why is Mugabe pushing for elections when he lost in March 2008 and when recent polls show the MDC-T winning with 32% and Mugabe at 18%? It would seem following the COPAC outreach exercise, the hardliners in Zanu PF have become convinced that the system they put in place with devastating effect in June 2008 is still intact and that threats of return to such violence could land them victory. Moreover, they calculate the impact of the protest vote for the opposition arising from the massive economic crisis of 2008 has gone down whilst MDC-T seems to be focusing on their factional fighting.

The recent events show that Mugabe and Zanu PF have no desire to leave power soon or peacefully. The discovery of diamonds, the growth in agriculture and the economic indigenisation programme will require an appropriate enabling political framework that can only be provided by untrammled Zanu PF control of the state. Even though Zanu PF is talking about peaceful campaign next year's elections are likely to be characterized by state orchestrated violence, intimidation and the manipulation of the results to ensure a Mugabe victory.

What this means is that the struggle for democratization in Zimbabwe is far from being won. What is now required is a united force of all progressive forces to build independently and renew both political and economic struggles against the Zanu PF dictatorship as well as the neoliberal capitalist agenda of the ruling class in Zimbabwe. This movement must also not have any illusions in the MDC-T or MDC-M, whose leaders have shown themselves not only to be greedy self-interested and cowardly junior partners of the dictatorship but also have been at the forefront of pushing massive neo-liberal policies that attack ordinary people.

They are a cowardly and vacillating lot, one day wining with the dictatorship and the other mourning about victimization. It is hoped that the latest events will show increasing layers of ordinary MDC-T supporters of the need for a resolute and decisive battle for democracy against the regime and capitalism.

The proposed Referendum can be used as a launch-pad for a bitter fight with the system of neo-liberalism and tyranny which must clearly go beyond the constitutional making process. Given the dominance of the COPAC Outreach programme by Zanu PF through manipulation and intimidation, it is likely that its positions on an all powerful executive president and non-inclusion of socio-economic rights will prevail. In any case both MDC formations are now calling for a negotiated constitution, which is likely to be based on the anti-working people Kariba Draft which contains neoliberal anti-working class provisions. If the MDC-T was really sincere it would have called for contentious provisions to be put directly as questions for decision in the Referendum. But it isn't and seeks to lie to the people that it will facilitate the writing of a new constitution on getting into power. For the above reasons, now that we have exposed in practice the hypocrisy of the elites, we should now start preparing to reject the likely elitist, neoliberal and undemocratic constitution they are brewing.... As we argued in our posters with our interests not included we must mobilize for a *Vote No* in the Referendum as part and parcel of building a general and united anti-dictatorship and anti-capitalist uprising in this country. It is time we learn from our mistakes as ordinary people that our struggles were hijacked when the MDC was formed. This time we have to do away with the capitalist system and join hands with other fighting working peoples of the world such as we see in France, Greece and South Africa who are also revolting against the system this day. Viva Socialism!

Cde T. Sando

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE

A LONG WALK TO FREEDOM!



Socialist Worker!

A REVOLUTIONARY ANTI-CAPITALIST

PAPER IN ZIMBABWE

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Several significant events on the political and constitutional framework of the country have occurred in recent months. Firstly have been the controversies surrounding the Constitutional Parliamentary Committee (COPAC) outreach exercise carried out from June 2010 to date. Secondly is the crisis in the Government of National Unity (GNU) following various unilateral state executive appointments by President Robert Gabriel Mugabe.

Political Crisis in Zimbabwe

The GNU is facing its biggest crisis since its inception, following the unilateral re-appointment of provincial governors and Ambassadors by Mugabe. This has been one of the main outstanding issues of the Global Political Agreement (GPA), which was supposed to be resolved by SADC and the AU, the guarantors of the GPA. The prime minister and MDC-T president Morgan Tsvangirai responded by declaring that he and his party did not recognize not only such appointments but others that Mugabe had unilaterally done in the last 18 months, including appointments of the Reserve Bank Governor; Attorney General; five High Court and Supreme Court Judges and several ambassadors to the UN, Europe and SA. He has since written to these various authorities formally informing them of his position. Mugabe and the state media have ridiculed Tsvangirai, with Mugabe saying this is why it was now mandatory to have elections by mid- 2011 and do away with the GNU that has become to him an unbearable hindrance.

The growing arrogance of Mugabe and ZANU-PF and the crisis facing the GNU is not surprising and we had predicted right from the inception of the GPA in September 2008:

“... (The MDC – T leaders’) primary preoccupation is towards reaching a sell out agreement with the Zanu PF dictatorship that will not benefit the poor and working people ... the opposition is dominated by the petite bourgeois elite, who long ago prostrated themselves before western neo-liberal forces and are now eager to get into state power, even as junior partners, and accumulate as a neo-colonial dependent capitalist class...”

“On the other hand Tsvangirai, supported by a duplicitous and largely cowardly civic society, actively undermined any attempt at serious mass action solely relying on western sanctions.

Not surprising they have been forced into a deal which gives a desperate dictatorship breathing space to renew itself, whilst laying the foundations for massive long term assaults on the living conditions of working people. Make no mistake, despite the above concessions; MDC is the definite junior in this deal with very unclear chances of success whilst the future of the deal itself is very uncertain...

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What the ISO stands for

SOCIALISM

Capitalism is a system of exploitation which generates inequality, crisis and war. Although workers create society's wealth, it is controlled and consumed by the ruling class.

Socialism can only be built if the working class takes control of social wealth and democratically plan its production and distribution to meet human needs, not private profits.

SOCIALISM FROM BELOW

The working class is the most powerful class in the struggle for socialism. We stand for their alliance with all other oppressed social classes in particular with peasants and the urban poor.

Socialism can only be attained by the mass self activity of workers such as strikes and demonstrations.

We support trade unions as essential to the fight for worker's economic and political rights.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

Reforms within the capitalist system cannot end oppression and exploitation. Capitalism must be overthrown.

Contrary to what is said by middle class opposition parties, institutions like parliament, the army, police and the courts are not neutral things that can just be taken over by the workers. Reformists fight for reforms as an end in themselves, whilst we accept reforms only in so far as they increase the confidence of the working class in order to smash the entire capitalist system

INTERNATIONALISM

Workers in every country are exploited by capitalism, so the struggle for socialism is global.

We campaign for solidarity with workers in all countries. We are internationalist because socialism depends on spreading working class revolutions across the world.

OPPOSITION TO OPPRESSION

Capitalism divided the working class using sexual, tribal, racial and national distinctions. The specially oppressed groups within the working class suffer the most under capitalism.

We oppose the oppression of women, minority tribes and ethnic groups and gays and lesbians. We fight for real social, economic and political equality of women including access to safe abortion facilities. We call for an end to discrimination against gays.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organized into a mass revolutionary party. We are in the early stages of building such a party through involvement in the day to day struggles of workers, students and the oppressed.

If you like our ideas and socialism COME join us!

LET'S BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY.JOIN US!

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