



Solidarity strikes by the industrial workers- the way to achieve 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. The burning question is: ***how to take the strike forward?***

The first step is to have mass meetings of strikers to consolidate our ranks; at the same time, **the central point must be to organise solidarity strikes across all industrial sectors, leading up to a general strike.** It is only when the capitalists-imperialists are hit in the pocket that they will instruct their government to meet the demands of the strikers. We salute the excellent start by Samwu (SA Municipal Workers Union) to come out on a solidarity strike on Friday 27th August; this is the path to take. We cannot depend on the Cosatu leaders, who are delaying preparations for solidarity strike action, hoping that workers get tired (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 of BMW than workers demands).

If we cannot depend on the Cosatu and SACP leaders, how do we achieve the solidarity strikes? The first step is to summon these leaders to the mass meetings of strikers and our marches and demand that solidarity strikes be called immediately; further, at every school there should be parent teacher student committees set up and mass meetings called of parents, asking them to mobilise solidarity actions such as strikes 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 action, 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 solidarity strikes and a general strike 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!

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