



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 26th Aug for solidarity strikes in all sectors (this means that the joint solidarity strikes would start on the 2nd 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 27th 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 petty 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 3rd 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!

Workers International Vanguard League: SA section of International Leninist Trotskyist Fraction.
1st Floor, Community House 41 Salt River rd Salt River 7925
ph 0822020617 ph [27] 21 4476777 fax 0865486048 workersinternational@gmail.com
www.workersinternational.org.za 25.8.2010 time 1343 pm