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THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST VAT

As the campaign against VAT gains momentum, it is important for us to state clearly our own attitude on taxation. In pursuence of this, we set out below a number of propositions:

1. Modern society, as we know it, cannot function without extracting payment from its citizens in the form of taxes. In a future society, where resources of society are reorganised, individuals may not be required to pay taxes.
2. "No taxation without representation" has been the battle cry of oppressed people who have been denied the political franchise. The question of full franchise is, therefore, inextricably linked to payment of taxes.
3. Unfortunately, apart from the resistance to the poll tax, the liberatory movement has not organised people into withholding payment of taxes.
4. There have been no campaigns against the General Sales Tax.
5. The protest by private doctors against VAT has taken many people by surprise. They had no idea that private doctors cared so much for the financial plight of the poor people.
6. While supporting any move to relieve the tax burden on the poor, we need to set out what we consider to be the proper demand on the question of taxation.

This demand is to be found in the Ten-Point Programme of the New Unity Movement. Point 10 of the Programme states:

"A JUST, PROGRESSIVE SYSTEM OF TAXATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES EXPRESSED ABOVE.

This means the abolition of Poll Taxes, of Special Levies imposed upon the oppressed. A single, progressive tax shall be the basis of taxation of citizens. All indirect taxation which falls heavily upon the poor shall be abolished. General Sales Taxes must be abolished."

7. One of the aims of a people's government is to place the main burden of taxation on the rich and those earning well. There can be no objection to the imposition of indirect taxation on luxury goods like motor cars, airconditioners and the like. But where there is taxation on daily needs and other necessities, then indirect taxation

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falls most heavily on the poor. Where there is a progressive system of taxation, the more a person earns the more tax that person pays. In indirect taxation, the same tax is paid regardless as to whether the buyer is a millionaire or a poorly paid worker. Let us illustrate:

What is the effect of payment of indirect tax of, say, a R100,00 on A who earns R1 000,00 and B who earns R10 000,00? It means that A pays 10 per cent of his salary and is left with only 90 per cent of it. In B's case, he only pays 1 per cent of his salary and is left with 99 per cent of it.

8. VAT is indirect taxation which falls heavily on the poor. Therefore, our opposition is to the whole of VAT and not just to the few items selected by COSATU and its ANTI-VAT allies.

ANC BEFRIENDS SELLOUTS

INTRODUCTION

For the oppressed people, life has been one long nightmare with no relief or let-up in sight. The ruling class, represented by the Nationalist Party, has done everything in its power to destroy the will and determination of the oppressed people to resist oppression.

1963 ushered in the era of legalised torture and execution in detention. Those of us who are old enough to remember will recall the horror with which we met the news of Babla Saloojee plunging to his death while he was in police custody. The horror was no less when Ahmed Timol and Dr Hoosen Haffejee were also killed while in police custody.

In all three cases mentioned, the State claimed that the cause of death was suicide. However, in all cases of deaths in detention, the oppressed people believe that those who so died are their martyrs and that they were murdered by agents of the state. No amount of explanation to the contrary has changed the collective mind of the people. Yet, despite the diabolical campaign of terror, the will of the people to resist remained unbroken.

AGE OF THE SELLOUTS

Believing that the oppressed people had been sufficiently terrorised into submission, whilst their leaders were gagged and bound and imprisoned, the government considered it safe for its stooges to emerge from their rat-holes. Thus emerged a whole brood out in the open. What struck

one about these creatures was that, amongst them, there was not a SINGLE one who enjoyed the respect of the people. The people, in turn, did not have a SINGLE good thing to say about any of them. The sellouts were a motley crowd of scoundrels, gangsters, at least one murderer, bankrupts, fortune-hunters and last, but not least, the compulsive bootlickers.

In spite of their diversity, they had one factor common to them, namely, their complete disregard for the views and feelings of the oppressed people.

PEOPLE REJECT SELLOUTS

Nothing was more eloquent in the condemnation of the Sellouts than the very low percentage poll in the Tricameral elections. The low poll stated loudly and clearly that the people had no time for the dummy bodies. It also provided candidates the opportunity to do the honourable thing by resigning if they had participated in the mistaken, but unlikely belief, that the people wanted their services. NOT ONE OF THEM RESIGNED!!! The people, therefore, had nothing but hatred and contempt for them. Even children used the names of sellouts as swearwords.

Let us not forget how the government and the Sellouts fought a dirty fight against the people. We will not forget how these creatures blackmailed the pensioners and those receiving grants (the most helpless section of the adult population) into voting. And what about the filthy trick of getting most of those who voted to do so before election day (Prior Voting) and by taking them to polling stations secretly?

No, the fight was not an easy one. There were arrests and detentions of those involved in the boycott activities. There was unchecked intimidation. There was the law which made it an offence to call for a boycott. People lost their lives while demonstrating against the Tricameral circus.

It will, therefore, be seen that the struggle against these traitors has been anointed with the blood of our martyrs. This has fuelled the hatred the people have for the Rajbansis of the world. It is not a blind hatred; it is a healthy hatred by people who were involved in a struggle.

ANC BEFRIENDS SELLOUTS

In the September 1991 issue of "Galaxy" a "knock-and-drop" newspaper circulating in Pietermaritzburg, we will find two photographs: in one a local Sellout, Lity Nerrahoo, is seen with F.W. de Klerk. In the other, the same Sellout is seen chatting with Nelson Mandela.

In POST (Natal) of 25 September 1991, Rajbansi is quoted as saying that Nelson Mandela took his hand and said: "Hello Amichand, how is Asha and the children?"

Emboldened by Mandela's disgraceful conduct, a certain Louis Skweyiya honoured Sellouts J.N. Reddy and Baldeo Dookie by inviting them to the Conference of the so-called Patriotic Front (POST (Natal) –16 October 1991). Skweyiya is a civil rights lawyer. When he enters the political arena, he is out of his depth. In this case though, his action is no less disgraceful because he knows the role played by the Reddys and Dookies.

The courting of Sellouts by Mandela and members of his retinue has angered the oppressed. People want to know: "Who or what gives Mandela the right to fraternise with enemies of the people?" In this regard, Nelson Mandela has shown a complete disregard for the views and feelings of the people.

What Mr Mandela and the ANC have forgotten is that the Sellouts were part of a ruling class strategy, one of the purposes of which was to keep Mr Mandela and his colleagues for a much longer period in prison.

The strategy of the government was to weld the Whites, the Indian and the "Coloured" people into a single bloc of rulers, through the Tricameral parliament. The bloc together with stooges in the Bantustans was considered sufficient to deal with the ANC and other resistance bodies. The Rajbansis, the J.N. Reddys, the Baldeo Dookies and the rest of the rotten crowd fell in line with this strategy. The resistance of the people to the Sellouts, however, put paid to that strategy.

The nationwide and spontaneous loathing for the Sellouts convinced the imperialists and the far-sighted section of the Nationalists that the Sellouts will not be able to give much of a helping hand. This realisation introduced NEGOTIATION POLITICS. And it was this realisation that opened the prison doors. Had the boycott and the policy of non-collaboration failed, i.e., had the Rajbansis succeeded in getting a substantial number of people to vote for them, there would have been no reason for the ruling class to switch to negotiation politics. That, in turn, would have meant that the banned organisations would have remained banned and the prison doors would have remained shut. Yet, the ANC shows its appreciation by displaying contempt for the people by befriending the Sellouts.

CONCLUSION

No organisation or individual, no matter how highly placed, must be allowed to disregard the views of the people and to get away with it. If people do not voice their disagreement or condemnation, they would be encouraging the growth of tyranny. The latter flourishes when people, through apathy, fear or misguided loyalty allow organisations or governments to perpetrate offensive acts by remaining silent. We have suffered tyranny and oppression for over three hundred years. The sacrifice in fighting tyranny has been awesome. All that sacrifice would have been in vain if the present tyranny is replaced by another. The colour of tyranny is of no consequence.

THE JUDGE WITHOUT THE VOTE

Mr Justice Ismail Mahomed is an eminent lawyer. He was at the forefront of the legal struggle against tyranny, oppression and injustice. He fought numerous cases and achieved outstanding successes. Undoubtedly, nobody is better qualified as a judge for a democratic South Africa.

Yet, many people have expressed uneasiness because he has given the De Klerk government a great deal of credibility by accepting a judgeship in a system where bloody tyranny and exploitation continues. He has taken an oath of allegiance to De Klerk's republic, an oath to enforce laws that are part of the repressive system; laws that prescribe the death penalty; laws directed against the landless peasants and homeless workers who are given the ugly name of squatters. He has placed himself in a position that may require him to uphold the Tri-cameral system should any dispute of it come before him.

It is, indeed, sad that Mr Justice Mahomed has had to rely on the green light from the ANC to accept judgeship. He knows the ANC very well, as he does the calibre of its leadership, a leadership that will say "yes" to virtually anything if it advances its political ambitions:

Yes, De Klerk is a man of integrity.

Yes, racist cricket in South Africa is OK.

Yes, Hendrikse of the Labour Party is a patriot.

Yes, arch-capitalist Zac de Beer, leader of the Democratic Party, is a comrade.

“Yes” has lost all meaning!!!

A correspondent to the “The Natal Witness”, recently stated:

Mr Justice Ismail Mahomed is not only South Africa’s first black judge, he is also the only judge who does not have the franchise.

Quite unique, the only judge in the world who does not have the genuine franchise!

We believe that Mr Justice Ismail Mahomed ought to have waited for democracy to establish itself first before accepting a judgeship.

THE SICK EQUATION

Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk have been named joint winners of the UN-sponsored Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize (Sunday Tribune – 13 October 1991).

THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION

This den of thieves, which is completely dominated by imperialism, provided willing cover for the invasion of Iraq and the murderous attack on the unarmed population there.

F.W. DE KLERK

Leader of the racist and repressive regime who has donned the disguise of a great reformer for reasons of political convenience.

NELSON MANDELA

Par Excellence the compromiser who is prepared to bargain away the most fundamental of rights of the oppressed and exploited. He has embarked on a road which must send the oppressed into modern slavery to capitalism-imperialism.

FELIX HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY

Life-long president of the Ivory Coast. One of Africa’s leading and longest-lasting despots. He is a devoted lackey of French Imperialism. When the entire world treated white racist South Africa as a polecat, this despot-lackey welcomed our oppressors. His notoriety increased vastly when he squandered his impoverished country’s wealth by building an extravagant basilica (surrounded by beggars and shacks) to advance his personal glory.

AS FOR PEACE

Since negotiations began, killings increased to such an extent that the years 1990 and 1991 have been the bloodiest in South Africa in this century.

DOES THIS EQUATION MAKE SENSE?

The leader of the most racist-inspired, violent system in the world and the leader of the compromisers being given an award sponsored by a den of thieves for a non-existent peace in the name of a despot-lackey!

A VERY UNPATRIOTIC FRONT

The last weekend of October marked yet another shameful chapter in the history of political opportunism in South Africa. Under the combined auspices of the ANC and PAC, a mixed bag of organisations formed themselves into what is cynically called a "Patriotic Front".

This Front may be many things, what it is not, is patriotic!

A patriot is a person who has a deep love and loyalty to one's country, including its people. In the South African context, true patriotism can only flow from a commitment to struggle for the freedom of the vast majority from oppression and exploitation. It also means a respect for the people, their views and aspirations.

The idea of a "Patriotic Front" was hatched in Harare as part and parcel of the contemptible strategy to suck the oppressed people into the abyss of negotiations. And negotiations, as we have so often explained, is a betrayal of the struggle for liberation.

The main actors from the ranks of the oppressed in negotiation politics are the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the ANC. The PAC, which had been playing the game of "hard-to-get", used the occasion of the "Patriotic" Front to say: "I do" publicly to its joining the process of betrayal through negotiations.

The attitude of the ANC and the PAC in their conflict with AZAPO in their run-up to the "Patriotic" Front demonstrates the extent of their political degeneracy. Let us explain.

AZAPO joined the ANC and PAC at some stage as co-convenor of the "Patriotic" Front*. Invitees to the Front included:

1. The hated puppets and quislings from the tricameral circus
2. The same breed of persons from the Bantustans
3. The Democratic Party.

In the days immediately preceding the Conference, AZAPO sent out a letter to all those bodies participating in the apartheid structures, demanding their withdrawal from these structures as a pre-condition to their admission to the conference of the "Patriotic" Front. The Democratic Party reacted with the arrogance typical of the baaskap. It demanded that AZAPO be made to withdraw the letter and apologise for its contents, failing which, it (the Democratic Party) would not attend the Conference. AZAPO very correctly refused. This infuriated the ANC and PAC who thereupon expelled AZAPO from the convening committee. The meaning of this act is incapable of misinterpretation! When a segment of the liberatory movement demands the exclusion of organisations belonging to the ruling class or its stooges, the ANC/SACP/PAC spring to the defence of the latter. It does not end there. Punishment also awaits those who insult the likes of the Democratic Party and the discredited Labour Party.

By what reasoning or logic do the SACP/ANC/PAC regard the Labour Party as PATRIOTIC? Remember a patriot loves his country and its people. What love and loyalty has the Labour Party shown to the people who have, since 1963, consistently rejected the dummy elections of the Coloured Representative Council and later of the Tri-cameral Circus? And just how "patriotic" has the Labour Party been by taking part in each and every one of those elections, often using thuggery and violence against those campaigning for the boycott?

By what logic and reasoning have the SACP/ANC/PAC come to regard the Democratic Party as patriotic? The Democratic Party is known to be the representative of capitalism and imperialism. So dear is the

*AZAPO ought to have known better than to have itself involved with this publicity stunt. "We were betrayed," exclaimed Dr Mosala, then president of AZAPO. He was commenting on the Conference for a Democratic Future held in 1989 and convened by the SACP/ANC elements, where AZAPO was shabbily treated at the hands of those elements. In truth, AZAPO had no business agreeing to accept the invitation to participate and act as convenor of a conference which they knew would be attended by Sellouts and a section of the ruling class.

Development Minister in the De Klerk government), to act for them in the All/Multi-Party Conference.

This is an embarrassing smack in the face for the SACP/ANC who placed the mantle of "Patriotic" on those government stooges. The SACP/ANC strategy on these stooges is:

"All potential allies, including people working in the apartheid political system, should be drawn into the fold of the liberation movement. (POST (Natal) 6-9 November).

This approach was rejected by the ordinary people who were angered by the friendship shown by the ANC for persons who have been branded as their enemy. The people's reaction flowed from an honest, earthy and uncomplicated attitude towards known traitors. In contrast, the SACP/ANC with all their university and prison graduates and professors fail to see the truth when it stares at them in the face.

When you abandon the path of honest and principled politics and choose the winding road of opportunism, you will not be able to distinguish friend from foe.

ON PATRIOTISM

1. We support a broad, progressive patriotism, i.e., loving one's country and the people living in it. The expression of that love is to be found in dedication and sacrifice for the defence and happiness of the country and the people.
2. We reject chauvinism or jingoism which are expressions of advancing the interests of one's country regardless of the rights and wrongs of the matter. In other words, it is a position of "my country right or wrong".
3. Our concept of patriotism is not in opposition to our belief in internationalism. Our position will always be governed by principles. If, therefore, South Africa wages an unjust and unprovoked war against an innocent neighbour, our duty would lie in the defence of that neighbour.
4. It makes no sense to offer service to people of distant lands without first doing it in your country.
5. When principles guide our actions, there will be no conflict between our internationalist and patriotic duties.

THE ALL-WHITE CRICKET TOUR

We have consistently supported SACOS's motto of "No normal sport in an abnormal society". The Cricket Tour to India which became possible through ANC backing, proves to the hilt the great truth contained in the motto.

ALL THE PLAYERS ARE WHITE! NOT ONE BLACK PLAYER WAS FOUND WORTHY OF SELECTION!

That is precisely what happens when you try to play normal sport in an abnormal society.

Recently, the government of Namibia prevented an all-white team from leaving that country to play outside. The government of Namibia stated that that team did not reflect the population of Namibia.

A number of black administrators were part of the South African retinue. Their job clearly was to act as guard dogs to ward off any attacks on the all-white team and the white administrators. They rightly feel nervous. After all, it was the Ali Bachers and the Clive Rices who arranged and played in mercenary tours.

How the racist system was jubilant! From the radio and television announcers to the ordinary white cricket lover, there were shouts of joy and jubilation. When the masters celebrate, the slaves are not to be outdone. Hence, the S.K. Reddys, the Cassim Docrats and Krish Mackerdujhs inform us how "thrilled" they were.

We are not suggesting that black players be selected without regard to merit. No, that would be the height of deception. What we are saying is that there ought to be no international participation until the imbalances and handicaps caused by racism and oppression, have been removed.

White racist cricketers and spectators have been admitted to world cricket. At what price? For free – except promises and expressions of good intentions.

Remember, the road to hell is paved with good intentions.