



NATIONAL FORUM

Unity in Struggle



NATIONAL ACTION: 1-4 MAY

The 1st of May is known the world over as May Day or International Labour Day, a day of struggle. It began as part of the struggle by workers for a shorter working day. For the right to have a better quality of life. This struggle continues 100 years after the call for May Day was first made. May Day has become a symbol of working class unity. Workers all over the world remind themselves that the struggle in their own countries is linked to the struggles of workers in other countries.

WORKERS

May Day is celebrated in almost every country by millions of people who believe in a better world. A world where people who make the good things in life can enjoy them. A world where the workers—the majority of people—control their own lives, make decisions for themselves in the factories and in their communities. A world where there is no hunger, violence and profit. A world where there is work for those who want to work. A world where we share and do not compete with each other.

CAPITALISM

The black working class is under attack from the forces of capitalism and racism. Close to 4 million of our people are unemployed. Rent, G.S.T, electricity, retrenchment, bus fare and food increases are the order of the day. When we stand up for our rights we are jailed and shot at. The rich are protecting their own and making sure they have the weapons to do so. Yet, the more they inflict poverty on us the more they will need weapons to defend themselves. Only when the working class who produce the wealth in our country, also control it and are in charge of distributing it, will there be homes, food and jobs for all.

DEMANDS

In spite of all the repression, workers are on the march to build a new society. Last year as a sign of worker unity, all major unions decided to join together and hold meetings to celebrate May Day. These are some of the demands they issued:

- *May Day as a paid holiday.
- *The right to full employment at a living wage.
- *Adequate and decent housing at reasonable rent.
- *Adequate and efficient transport.
- *The right to strike and picket.



This year over 400 organisations in the National Forum have called for national action from the 1st May to the 4th, and around June 16th. Our struggle is a long one, we have made many sacrifices. There are still many battles ahead. Let us unite now. Let us heed the call for appropriate action. Issued by NATIONAL FORUM, Box 347, J.H.S.

NATIONAL FORUM



MANIFESTO OF THE AZANIAN PEOPLE FOR:

- Anti-racism and Anti-Imperialism
- Non-collaboration with the oppressor and his political instruments
- Independent working-class organisation
- Opposition to all alliances with ruling-class parties

This document, once amended, was first agreed upon by 300 organisations in June 1983

Manifesto

Our struggle for national liberation is directed against the historically evolved system of racism and capitalism which holds the people of Azania in bondage for the benefit of the small minority of the population, i.e. the capitalists and their allies, the white workers and the reactionary sections of the middle classes. The struggle against apartheid, therefore, is no more than the point of departure for our liberatory efforts.

The Black working class inspired by revolutionary consciousness is the driving force of our struggle for national self-determination in a unitary Azania. They alone can end the system as it stands today because they alone have nothing at all to lose. They have a world to gain in a democratic, anti-racist and socialist Azania, where the interests of the workers shall be paramount through worker control of the means of production, distribution and exchange. In the socialist republic of Azania the land and all that belongs to it shall be wholly owned and controlled by the Azanian people. The usage of the land and all that accrues to it shall be aimed at ending all exploitation.

It is the historic task of the Black working class and its organisations to mobilise the oppressed and exploited

people in order to put an end to the system of oppression and exploitation by the white ruling classes.

OUR PRINCIPLES

Successful conduct of the national liberation struggle depend on the firm basis of principle whereby we will ensure that the liberation struggle will not be turned against our people by treacherous and opportunistic "leader" and liberal influences. The most important of these principles are:

- *Anti-racism, anti-imperialism and anti-sexism.*
- *Anti-collaboration with the ruling class and all its allies and political instruments.*
- *Independent working class organization, free from bourgeois influences.*

OUR RIGHTS

In accordance with these principles the following rights shall be entrenched in Azania:

- *The right to work.*
- *State provision of free and compulsory education*

for all. Education shall be geared towards liberating the Azanian people from all oppression, exploitation and ignorance.

- *State provision of adequate and decent housing for all.*
- *State provision of free health, legal, recreational and other community services that will respond positively to the needs of the people.*

OUR PLEDGES

In order to bring into effect these rights of the Azanian people, we pledge ourselves to struggle tirelessly for:

- *The abolition of all laws, institutions and attitudes that discriminate against our people on the basis of colour, sex, religion, language or class.*
- *The re-integration of the bantustan human dumping grounds into a unitary Azania.'*
- *The formation of trade unions that will heighten revolutionary worker consciousness.*
- *The development of one national culture inspired by socialist values.*