

2 special editorial comment

Ngelethu! Izwi to give lead in building WASP

We are living through a period of revolution and counter-revolution. The catastrophic crisis of world capitalism, beginning in 2008 with the implosion of the United States financial system, opened a new period of world history. Following the collapse of the Stalinist regimes of the USSR and Eastern Europe in the early 1990s – bureaucratic dictatorships that nevertheless demonstrated the enormous gains possible for the living standards of the working class upon the basis of a planned economy – capitalism had a free hand to demonstrate its ‘superiority’. But rather than a future of wealth and plenty, the working class suffers plunging living standards, mass unemployment, endless war and terrorism.

At the height of the capitalist crisis of the 1930s, Leon Trotsky, along with Lenin a leader of the workers’ 1917 Russian Revolution, said that “the historical crisis of mankind is reduced to the crisis of the revolutionary leadership.” The same is true today. Society is rotten-ripe for socialism. Mass struggle, as heroic and determined as at any time, has erupted on every continent as the working class seeks a way out of capitalism’s dead-end.

But the vacuum of leadership is filled by anti-working class religious and nationalist forces dragging society backwards and reformist and Stalinist ideas

seeking to prettify capitalism. The choice before the working class in the twenty-first century is socialism or barbarism. The Democratic Socialist Movement has made its choice: we fight for socialism and a society run in the interests of the working class.

Our dual task

The DSM is a revolutionary party based on the ideas of Marxism and Trotskyism. We are the South African affiliate of the Committee for a Workers International (CWI), a revolutionary socialist international organised in over 48 countries (see page 8-9). It is vital that we strive to build and strengthen this revolutionary core.

But at this stage of the struggle in South Africa, as in many countries, revolutionaries face a dual task. Not only must we struggle to build a revolutionary party such as the DSM, but we must act as a catalyst to assist the re-emergence of mass independent working class organisations out of which raw material a revolutionary cadre can be crystalized.

It was this understanding and recognition of the changed situation after the Marikana massacre in 2012 that led the DSM, alongside a number of the mineworkers’ independent strike committees, to found the

Workers and Socialist Party (WASP). We had argued since 1996 and the ANC’s adoption of the neo-liberal capitalist GEAR policy, that the working class in South Africa was faced with the task of building its own mass party to take forward the struggle for socialism. The mineworkers’ break from the ANC showed that the time was ripe for such a party to be born.

WASP was founded with a federal structure to facilitate the assembling of forces that

perspectives. Small as WASP’s forces may be, it has played a crucial role in pushing the issue of a workers party onto the agenda.

A revolutionary paper

Marikana has posed fundamental questions about the ANC regime and the nature of society. But in the minds of the advanced sections of the working class and youth the most burning question is, what must we do now? A revolutionary paper, such as *Izwi Labasebenzi*, has a crucial role to play in clarifying ideas and the tasks faced by the working class. Lenin explained that, “The newspaper can and should be the ideological leader of the party, evolving theoretical truths, tactical principles, general organisational ideas, and the general tasks of the whole party at any given moment.”

We have committed to increase the frequency of the production of *Izwi*, produced by the DSM since 1998, and to make *Izwi* available as the official organ of WASP. *Izwi* will assist WASP clarify its ideas, develop its programme and educate a generation of revolutionary cadre in the ideas of Marxism. We will welcome the submission of letters and opinion pieces making more space available for debate when issues warrant

to aid the struggle for theoretical clarity.

Organisationally, *Izwi* has a crucial role to play too. Lenin explained that, “A newspaper is not merely a collective propagandist and collective agitator, it is also a collective organiser.” Marxism is a guide to struggle and a revolutionary paper must, in striving to clarify ideas, link them to immediate tasks, and cement the unity and cohesion of the party it serves. Additionally, an independent voice, unequivocally on the side of the working class is an important antidote to the confusion spread by the mainstream capitalist media. The lies heaped upon the mineworkers and the metalworkers during their recent strikes show how necessary this is.

We call on all those who agree with us to embrace *Izwi* as your paper – read it, study it, write for future issues and take it upon yourself to sell *Izwi* and spread the ideas that the working class needs to arm itself in the struggle for a socialist society.

“The newspaper ... should be the ideological leader of the party, evolving theoretical truths, tactical principles, general organisational ideas, and the general tasks of the whole party...”

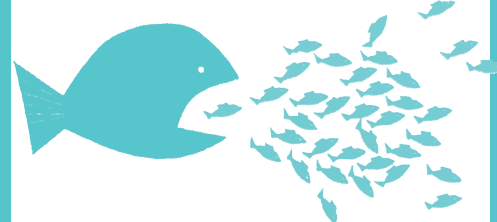
-Lenin

could lay the basis for a mass working class party and to place the issue of the organisational and political independence of the working class centre stage. The subsequent break of the metalworkers’ union NUMSA from the ANC, the crisis in the Cosatu trade union federation over its participation in the Tripartite Alliance and the emergence of the Economic Freedom Fighters (see page 4) to the left of the ANC has been a stunning confirmation of our

Izwi labasebenzi is published under the leadership of the Democratic Socialist Movement Executive Committee. It is produced, edited and laid out by the EC’s editorial sub-committee which consists of Weizmann Hamilton, Li Shange, Mametlwe Sebei, Sheri Hamilton and Shaun Arendse. Contact us on 081 366 7375.



Them...



The golden boys’ club

Sibanye Gold, which was ‘spun off’ from Cecil Rhodes’ old company Gold Fields in 2012 to take over its KDC and Beatrix mines, now promises its shareholders R1 billion in share dividends (pay-outs) every year through to 2028, when the gold is likely to be mined out. Sibanye CEO Neal Froneman, the Golden Boy of the mining industry at the moment, boasts of the spectacular turnaround at the Sibanye mines, which had been regarded as ‘junk’ before he took over. A key to this success has however been the cutting of jobs – so fewer workers are now producing more gold, all to keep those dividends coming!

No wonder South Africa’s super-

rich are growing richer faster than elsewhere in the world – the number of SA dollar-millionaires have increased by 106 percent over the past ten years, compared to an average 58 percent increase. The number of multi-millionaires has increased by 120 percent, compared to 70 percent worldwide. There are now 49 000 dollar millionaires in SA.

R3billion to rule us

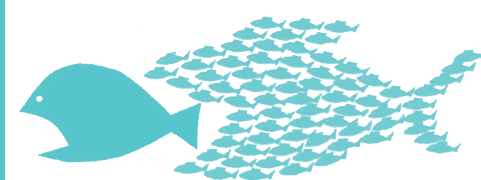
National Police Commissioner Riah ‘We’re-not-sorry’ Phiyega has requested parliament to grant the SAPS an extra R3billion of taxpayers’ money to beef up the police’s public order policing unit (POP) to ensure ‘stability’ ahead of the 2016 local government elections. The SAPS itself had already shifted R45million of its existing funds to the unit, Phiyega said. According to the police, the R3billion would be used to increase the number of POP officers from just over 4700 today to 8700 in four years, build new accommodation for all these new cops, upgrade its fleet of Nyalas, renovate the POP training centre and set up offices for a national ‘command-and-control

centre’. Even ANC MPs, however, questioned the truthfulness of these details as the police admitted verbally that they would also employ ‘information-gatherers’ (read: spies and agents-provocateurs). The state is preparing to wage an intensified class war against us, not only funded by us but one where the blame for striking the first blow will also be apportioned to us, thanks to the ‘information-gatherers’ on its secret books.

Praying for the poor or preying on the poor?

Nigerian ‘prophet’ TB Joshua has wealth of R165 million but was too greedy to spend some on ensuring the hostel his fee-paying followers stayed in was safe, leading to the deaths of 116 people when it collapsed.

...and Us



If you agree with Izwi, become a seller too!

We are making bulk orders of *Izwi* available to WASP members, branches and affiliates at a discounted rate of R3 per copy. If sold at the R5 cover price, the additional R2 can be paid in to and used by your local branch for local campaigning. Speak to your branch committee to become a seller and start fundraising.

To donate to the DSM and support the regular production of *Izwi*, or to pay in money for sales, please use the following details:

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