Anti Privatisation Forum goes to Durban!

Phansi Racism! Phansi Neo-liberalism! Phansi Capitalism!

Who are we?

We are the APF (Anti-Privatisation Forum) of communities, unions and activists in Gauteng.

We are resisting water and electricity cut-offs, evictions, corrupt landlords, and retrenchments. APF includes Soweto Electricity Crisis Committee, Kathorus Concerned Residents, Lekoa-Vaal Forum, Vaal Working Class Community Committee, Inner City Community Forum, Magnolia Flats, KwaThema Unemployed Organisation, Park Station Hawkers' Committee, Daveyton Residents' Committee, Keep Left, Democratic Socialist Movement, Apdusa, Wosa, and Bikisha Media Collective.

Soweto

Vaal

Kathorus

inner Čity

We demand:

That government and bosses stop all cut-offs and evictions, halt retrenchments and casualisation, scrap all arrears of the workers and unemployed, provide a flat rate for electricity and water, affordable basic services and housing, free services & housing for pensioners, unemployed and disabled people.

That neo-liberalism and privatisation, which make the rich richer, and the poor, poorer, come to an end, and are replaced by a system that places real democracy ahead of the dictatorship of the market, and human need ahead of profits.

Why are we going all the way to Durban? What are we going to do there?

This weekend, government delegations from around the world will be meeting as the United Nations in Durban to discuss racism. We are going to demonstrate against their meeting because....

- > Privatisation, cut_offs, evictions etc keep racism alive. Privatisation makes services like water and electricity more expensive. It causes retrenchment& It speeds up cut-offs and evictions. It puts profit before need. The black working class majority suffers most under this burden.
- > There can be no solution to racism while a minority get rich from the working class majority. To smash racism we must smash capitalism.
- > The minority cannot make decisions for the majority. The Heads of State UN meeting is illegitimate. It does not represent the victims of racism. It represents the economic interests of the rich. There will be no real solutions to racism at this meeting.
- > Western leaders do not want to admit that western capitalists got rich from slavery and colonialism. They still defend their interests through racism, as in the US's support for the Israeli state to defend its oil profits. In their own countries and the world they are pushing neo-liberal policies like privatisation that are making the rich richer and the rest poorer. Through racism they try to divert people's anger from themselves. We stand with those who want real reparations for slavery and who say Zionism is racism.
- > President **Mbeki** cannot ask us to stand with him against racism while he is against us on privatisation. African leaders at the conference shout against racism but they will also put economic interests first. Mbeki's Millennium Africa Plan (MAP) is no solution to racism, nor is it real reparation for slavery. It is based on the same neo-liberal policies of opening trade and all services to profit. It will enrich a few Africans, but spread poverty for the rest.
- > Only unity in struggle against the bosses' greed for profit can take us forward. The struggle against racism is taken forward by COSATU's strike against privatisation, by the Soweto electricity boycott, and resistance to evictions.

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