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8th Anniversary

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CHANGE ?

The turmoil in the Black secondary and tertiary institutions of education, over the past few months, is a clear indication of the regime's intransigence and arrogance to lead this country on a suicidal path of destruction - unless we do something.

That more than six-thousand (6000) STUDENTS HAVE BEEN FORCED INTO THE STREETS by the DET is murder. Murder in the sense that these students will now be forced to join the thousands of the unemployed -cheap labour, who suffer exploitation at the hands of the capitalist hyenas.

Talking of fiddling while Rome is burning, P.W. Botha is presently selling his constitutional proposals to the outside world. We do not for a single moment suspect that he is unaware of what is happening inside the country. All the countries that will be hosting him should realise that they are sanctioning the closure of the doors of learning to thousands of Black children.

As P.W. Botha shakes Margaret Thatcher's hand, a Black child is dying of starvation, a Black community is being forcibly removed and resettled and a Black man is being arrested for a pass...

Now, as Black people are preparing to commemorate those brave sons and daughters who died on the 16th June 1976, when the regime unleashed its fury on unarmed students, the system is continuing to use its jackboot-strong-arm tactics which are once more evidenced in the:

- * RAIDS ON THE PEOPLE'S MOVEMENTS AND IT'S LEADERS.
- * CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS AND VARSITIES.
- * DEPORTATION OF LEADERS FROM THE PSEUDO-REPUBLICS.
- * STIFFLING OF WORKERS' ASPIRATION.

We pledge our solidarity with the students (all) who have been affected with high hand of the system. We, more vehemently than ever before, support the students of Ongoye in their call for the dismissal of the "bespectacled" tribal chief Gatsha Buthelezi, as chancellor of UNIZUL.

FORWARD WITH AN EDUCATION THAT WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE NEEDS OF AZANIA!!!

DOWN WITH AN EDUCATION AIMED AT EQUIPPING THE WHITE STUDENTS WITH A GRANDIOSE SENSE OF SUPERIORITY!!!

8 YEARS LATER...

Ninetyfive (95) months later after the uprisings of 1976, the regime's unrelenting suppression continues to find expression. We focus briefly on the events in the high schools and colleges, which clearly show that the shadow of June 16 1976 still hangs over our country:

*ATTRIDGEVILLE.

Over six thousand (6000) school-children have been arrogantly forced into the streets by Marend du Plessis, because their demands could not be met. The students demanded:

1. The introduction of democratically elected student representative councils (SRC's) in their schools.
2. The abolishment of corporal punishment.
3. They complained against the amorous advances the teachers were making towards female students.

The answer was: STUDENT LEADERS DETAINED, OTHERS CHARGED AND YET MANY MORE SUSPENDED.

*CRADOCK

In this area Black students have been boycotting classes for almost the entire period since the academic year 1984 began. A deaf ear was visited upon them by the DET and similar repressive measures employed. Seven students of between 12 and 14 years were detained by the SB's and are still in detention.

*UNITRA

The puppet republic of Transkei is no different from the racist S.A. regime. In fact this is a typical bunch of remote-controlled-battery-charged collaborationists. The demands of the Black students here could not be met. The 'varsity was arbitrarily closed and four lecturers deported from the pseudo-republic. Charges were brought against 137 students (COTRAVENTION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY) that had been declared! The charges were later withdrawn; the demands of the students still stand.

*UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE (UWC)

Indeed! The shadow of 1976 still hangs over our heads. The authorities at UWC are once more forcing Afrikaans as medium of instruction down the throats of the Black students there! At this campus too, boycotts have punctuated the progress of the academic programme.

*TURFLOOP

Prof. Mokgokong is creating a red herring for the inadequacies of his administration, in futility. He is once more trying to convince us that the "subversive elements" here are always at work or just before the exam time. One student leader there correctly pointed out that "students protest at such times, because it is at these times that the admin. kicks us in the teeth". By the use of the one and only weapon in the hands of students (boycott), the authorities re-adjusted the previously congested exam time-table as the students had demanded.

The students were also given an assurance that the question of the insensitive economics lecturer there would be attended to.

*MEDUNSA

Boycotts are not only effective when the academic progress of the students is threatened. Recently the Medunsa students "put their actions where their mouths are"; "BLACK STUDENT WORKER SOLIDARITY" was practised when the students, in solidarity with the FEDICS WORKERS (en masse) protested against the unfair dismissal of a worker there. The worker, Mr Michael Moeketsi, was subsequently re-instated.

*UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (UCT)

For a Black student, insensitive treatment remains a reality wherever he is. Accommodation facilities not adequate (for Black students that is) As it ensues, 500 Black students summoned to appear before the disciplinary committee, then a total boycott of classes (by Black students that is) logically follows. Among other things the students' resolution to boycott noted: "Arbitrary and dictatorial" closure of schools in Pretoria, Unitra and the boycotts at UWC, Fort Hare and elsewhere in the country as a response to harsh bantustan controls, gutter education and the political oppression of our people."

*ONGOYE

No force, no matter how strong, can stand in the way of righteousness forever. In spite of the October '83 massacre, in spite of the repressive measures by the Kwa-Zulu government and in spite of the "allegiance" pledge, the students at Ongoye continue unafraid to call for the dismissal of that running-dog tribal chief Gatsha Buthelezi as the chancellor of UNIZUL.

*The catalogue is indeed inexhaustive!!!

Boycott all ethnic and multiracial graduation ceremonies

A ceremony is understood to be a final gratitude of a person's hard-earned achievement

In capitalist societies this achievement remains an asset of an individual, and is used to boost the individual economically. The unsuspecting community congratulates a graduate, with the hope that such acquired skills are going to be used for the improvement of society in general. This dream is however not realized in capitalist societies, South Africa included. Instead such skills are used to promote individualistic benefits at the expense of the majority of the people, in S.A. the black working class. Because graduation ceremonies are but a gesture of final gratitude to a student's hard-earned degree, they are appropriate and well deserved occasions in a free society.

Let us focus on the situation in South Africa. The ruling class in this country believes in false and destructive concepts of ethnicity and racism. Our schools are ethnically segregated, and this segregation extends to universities. In actual fact no institution of learning qualifies to be called a university in this country. This is so because the ruling class has through legislation maintained and controlled the racial and ethnic composition of the student population in these institutions. This is indicative of how SICK our society is. The truth of the matter is that in this country we have ethnic and multi-racial institutions, and none is better than the other. They teach and prepare white students to be bosses and owners of monopoly industries, and black students to be subservient to the white bosses and aspire for white positions at the expense of the black working class.

Since there exist no normal institutions of learning in this country, we find ourselves without any alternative, but to attend these institutions. The most striking reasons amongst all, why we attend these institutions are the following:

1. Education is a necessity and forms an integral part of any developing society.
2. Through our ~~hard work~~ and dedication to the struggle for liberation, we can use this very indoctrination-oriented education to eradicate racism and capitalism as it stands today.
3. It is impossibly expensive for our racially oppressed and economically exploited working class parents to send us outside this country to obtain education.
4. We believe that, since we are aware of the objectives of this system of education, we can subvert its aims and use it for our liberatory purposes.
5. Our attending these institutions is under severe protest, and as such cannot be seen as an act of acceptance of the system of education.

Graduation ceremonies in S.A. cannot be viewed in isolation from the educational system as a whole, since the former is the culmination of the latter.

Whilst attending these institutions has some justification, one has to do this under severe protest, with the sole objective of transcending capitalist education which is an instrument of exploitation and using it for the benefit of society as a whole. It suffices to say that education in S.A. is geared towards instilling in us an unshakeable sense of individualism. It has also been used by the white ruling class to alienate the black student from the true aspirations of the black working class, whilst lulling the black student with a false sense of security and comfort. We have been seeing in this country, people who have been using their education to suppress the black working class's increasing hostility to the racism and capitalism being perpetuated by the white ruling class.

In S.A. justification for graduation ceremonies for black students does not exist at all; because it would be a desecrate contradiction of oneself to protest against a system in winter and glorify it in summer. Anyone who does this is a liar and betrayer of one's principles. For us black students, our stance is clear—our protest against attending these institutions includes our opposing graduation ceremonies. To this end, the Azanian Student Movement (AZASM) noting that :

1. These ethnic and multiracial institutions use these graduation ceremonies as their towering glory to authenticate the myth of separate development.
2. These ethnic and multiracial graduation ceremonies are hunting-grounds for capitalist exploiters who want to use black students as the lieutenants of oppression and exploitation of the black working class.

3. These ethnic and oppressive perpetuations must be exposed to the black community as they have most dangerous implications.

Therefore resolved that:

1. Black students must be encouraged to boycott these ethnic graduation ceremonies.
2. Black students must be encouraged to resist all attempts by the white ruling class to co-opt them, and use them as a buffer against the true aspirations of the working class.
3. The Black community as a whole must be encouraged to actively support this call by AZAEM

From the above, it is clear that whilst the S.A. white system persists, there will be no reason for us to attend graduation ceremonies except for the glorification of racism and capitalism, from which tribally and ethnically oriented education transpires. Graduation ceremonies have a negative contribution to our struggle, and are geared towards the promotion of elitist and other counter-revolutionary tendencies. The boycott of these ceremonies is a little but significant contribution to our struggle for total emancipation.

No individual committed to the quest for a unitary Azania, with a single education system, geared towards the needs of the Azanian nation can afford to honour these ceremonies. Such people will be counted amongst those responsible for retarding our liberatory efforts.

There is no struggle without sacrifices.

Forward to a liberated Azania.

ONE AZANIA ONE NATION

By AZASM

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Collection Number: AK2117

DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: **Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand**

Location: **Johannesburg**

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