



ALL STRENGTH TO ZIMBABWEAN PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS IN YOUR GENERAL STRIKE!

We workers and trade unionists in the General Industrial Workers Union of SA, an affiliate of our struggle SAFTU, salute your general strike in defence of your living standards.

We know that the veld fire of inflation is international but we also know that our ruling elites in corporations and state have insulated themselves against this fire. They have their own private power supply, make money from misery and can access all the foreign exchange they want to trade profitably while we suffer. This is how capitalism is managed by our rulers in our countries. We know that the Zimbabwean economy has been brought to its knees by the ZANU-PF government.

We also know that we share responsibility for this decline: our ANC leaders have supported every ZANU-PF government and insisted that all elections are free and fair when they are not. They support this deadly regime and its repression of workers. We know of the brutal ZANU-PF autocracy which does not hesitate to have one Marikana after another in state diamond mines or on the streets.

We congratulate you for your action and look to a future in which the working class of Southern Africa which has been brought together in mines, farms and factories by the capitalist class will struggle together in industry and state. We should fight not separately but together. United we are powerful!

Working class solidarity is the answer

We are calling on SAFTU and COSATU (the SA Federation of Trade Unions and the Congress of SA trade unions) to coordinate our ongoing public sector negotiations and cost of living campaigns. We face a government determined to make our living standards suffer as they force wage cuts on the civil service by refusing to give us the increases we have won. Let us meet and coordinate our public sector negotiations; from below we should organise to face our state which organises from above against us in SADC.

We support the call by public sector workers in Zimbabwe for a general strike on 27 and 28 July 2022 in response to the worsening cost of living crisis, attacks on trade union members and demand to receive salaries in US dollars since the local currency has collapsed. Additionally, we support the call for further mass action in September as proposed by the Zimbabwe Confederation of Public Sector Trade Unions. This strike action comes 4 months after 135 000 teachers in Zimbabwe went on strike demanding wages of US\$540 instead of the US\$100 they were receiving.

By the end of June, the cost of fuel in Zimbabwe hit the equivalent of R30 a litre and bread reached R35 a loaf while wages have continued to decline. These prices are set to increase as inflation is at 192% meaning that workers' wages will buy even less. We therefore support Zimbabwean public workers' demand for a living wage. Although conditions differ in detail, Zimbabwean, and other workers throughout the SADC region are suffering. We are protesting around the same issues; let us unite around these issues!

We are aware that arrests and detentions of trade unionists and other political activists are the order of the day; let us be free! We demand the immediate release of ARTUZ (Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of

Zimbabwe) President Obert Masauere and Secretary General Robson Chere. Let our fellow workers in eSwatini be free to organise and achieve democratic not aristocratic rule!

Let us unite for workers' democracy and socialism in Zimbabwe, South Africa and throughout SADC.

ALL STRENGTH IN YOUR STRUGGLE; YOUR STRUGGLE IS OURS!

Issued by GIMUSA

For further enquiries, please contact:

Mametlwe Sebei
GIWUSA President
081 368 0706.
mametlwesebei@gmail.com

John Appollis
General Secretary
071 576 9930
john.apolis@gmail.com