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PERSONAL

FORWARD

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D E D I C A T I O N .

A SOCIETY THAT DOES NOT VALUE ITS YOUTH IS DOOMED.
A GOVERNMENT THAT KILLS AND MAIMS THE YOUNG AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY DESERVES
THE CONDEMNATION OF EVERY CIVILISED AND PATRIOTIC HUMAN BEING ALIVE.
WE DEDICATE THIS EDITION TO THE YOUTH OF SOWETO, MASSACRED IN JUNE 1976,
THE NIGERIAN STUDENTS MURDERED IN JUNE 1981, AND ALL YOUTHS THE WORLD OVER,
WHO HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST EXPLOITATION,
INJUSTICE AND VIOLENCE.

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EDITORIAL.

LET US GET ORGANISED!

The present situation in Nigeria shows the signs of a Political Crisis. It has already developed to an extent whereby poor and exploited working people are finding it difficult to live and are therefore demanding for a change of rule. That is, a change from the rule of the rich by force, to that of the poor working people. Given this problem, in this situation, the setting up of an independent National Organisation of workers, peasants and other oppressed section of the society becomes necessary, in order to direct the might and militant resolve of the working people and to achieve the unity of all the exploited forces in the struggle against oppression.

The upswing of the working people's struggle showed in popular actions since 1980, specifically the strikes of the trade unions and the revolts of the peasantry in rural areas has indeed taken on a wide proportion.

For instance, many of the strikes by industrial Unions lasted 10, 20 or more days, giving rise to the movement of solidarity with them everywhere and winning sympathy for the striking industrial unions on the part of all people. This is only one in the series of events over the past two years, testifying to the determination of the people to use all forms of struggle and respond by popular means to the exploitation and oppression perpetrated by the ruling class.

Particularly in this historic task, some of us came to understand better than before, that, to raise, still higher, the level of popular struggle and overcome political divisions in our opposition to the forced rule, is the most urgent task facing the Nigerian democratic and revolutionary forces today. There is no other alternative, when our problems and difficulties are increasing everyday.

Come to think of it! Why is it, that all the political parties including the governments they control are keeping silent over the problems of retrenchments? Didn't all of them promise full employment to us in 1979? What have they given us apart from the intolerable wave of retrenchment? Why is it that all the political parties, including the governments they control, have failed woefully to pay our salaries and wages promptly and on time? Have they not promised to make life better and more abundant for us? Why then are they increasing our sufferings? Is it not we, the ordinary people that are suffering from inflation and payment of high rent?

working class must be the vanguard in Nigeria's fight against oppression because it is the class that is directly engaged in production. It is this class that runs the State through its labour. It is therefore incorrect for students or youths to continue to see themselves as the vanguard of the fight against oppression in Nigeria. Apart from the fact that students are not (meanwhile) engaged in any meaningful production, they are also a minority of the oppressed in the Nigerian Society.

The lessons of the June 7th massacre in Ile-Ife is that it is very easy for the ruling class to isolate and fight the oppressed separately.

It is only an alliance of all oppressed classes in Nigeria that can liberate them. This alliance must be led by a Vanguard (the working class).

The lessons of Students killings in 1971, 1978 and 1984 have all proved this.

F O R W A R D E V E R.

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