Mass Line

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IN THIS ISSUE

PERSONAL

Banner: Welcome, Nigerian Labour Party (P.1)

With the People's Party: Brazilian Popular Front for Presidential Elections (P.2)

Building the Labour Party, by Ola Oni (p.13)

At School With Comrades: Who are the detractors of the Labour Party? (P.5)

Sectarianism and the Tactics of Isolation, by Eskor Toyo (P.15)

The People in Action: Example of People's Government (Calabar Example) (P.6)

From the Archives of Revolution: Building a Working People's Mass Party when all are not Leninists (North Korean Experience) (P.10)

Poet's Nook: As the Fight Begins. by Eskor Toyo (P.17)

Labour Party Song (P.17)

Address:

We People of this Land have suffered enough
OUR CHAINS MUST FALL!

Banner

WELCOME, NIGERIAN LABOUR PARTY

This is the first issue of 'Mass Line' since the launching of the Nigerian Labour Party. We say a big welcome to the party.

The massive embrace of the party by the working class is not in doubt. This response confirms the expectation of this journal since it came into being once again in December 1986.

Since our debut we have advocated the unity of the Marxist-Leninists not for its own sake but for the creation of a massive working people's party for power. We congratulate all the comrades all over the country who shared our vision and rose to the occasion.

This party has emerged thanks to the conception of comrade Eskor Toyo who pioneered the idea that we can only make history through our own independent intervention in the political process by educating and carrying not a few workers here and there but a mass of workers for power. Other comrades soon or late accepted this idea. Together very many working class militants toiled to create the party.

Wherever the socialists were in actual touch with the workers and had the correct ideas, the party crystalised fast and without rancour.

There are those who consider themselves as 'revolutionaries' and see 'opportunists' everywhere. Let us make one thing clear. Until the workers start fighting for power, no one can define opportunism with regard to the working people's revolution, for revolution means a massive struggle for power.

It was politically correct to launch the Nigerian Labour Party. Those that wanted a 'democratic front' in place of a workers' party are simply wrong. It was also correct to pursue registration politics. This does not mean that we should not recognise and take care of the dangers arising therefrom. Pursuing registration politics enabled us to go from the known to the unknown.

To have a workers' party is not necessarily to have a good one. The road to a good party is to educate, organise and lead. Leadership is not always the same thing as office holding. The Nigerian Labour Party will have a congress in a year's time and is expected to live well beyond 1992. What has emerged is a vehicle for the power struggle against bourgeois rule towards people-oriented social transformation. The party programme makes this abundantly clear.

Those who really want socialism now have in their possession not a word but the following asset: a political party of the working class massively supported by workers against the bourgeoisie; a workers' party that seeks not participation of the workers in the existing order but political power for the working class; a party that seeks not the perpetuation of the existing exploitative order but its destruction and the creation in its place of a genuinely democratic and humane order serving the people. Let us go to work to build and lead the party especially where we are.

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