

**A CALL FROM THE SOUTHERN
AFRICAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY
NETWORK!**



PEOPLE'S SUMMIT

#RIGHT2SAYNO!

PEOPLE'S SUMMIT

Southern African People's Solidarity Network

Towards the unity of the people of Southern Africa, SADC has failed – a new journey begins.



As people of Southern Africa we have a heroic history of resistance and revolutionary struggle. We defeated colonialism in all its vile guises, we ended Apartheid and in some parts of the region we made heroic steps on a post-capitalist future.

But that was then – several decades ago.

Our hopes and aspirations have been defeated by a combination of forces, especially Western Imperialism, principally through their economic power of the global financial system and the counter revolutionary forces sponsored by the West to erode the revolution from within. We should not underestimate the levels of betrayal of the elected leaderships we put in power, who were seduced by that power and co-opted by the trappings of high office. Fanon's warnings of false decolonisation reverberate through the mountains, valleys, fields, forests, mines, villages and concrete jungles of our lands.

The very instruments of our liberation have been turned against us: the states we conquered, the liberation movements and trade unions we forged, the development agencies we constructed and the regional institutions and protocols needed to build Pan-Africanism in the Southern part of our continent. This is especially true of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

It has become another mechanisms for the enrichment of a tiny elite and the selling of our sovereignty and commons to transnational capital often via the West's local 'comprador' allies. Although some SADC governments have in the past railed against imperialism – those of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique and Zambia especially – the harsh reality is that when they talk left, it is often to disguise the walk to the right.

The promise of democracy - the expression of people's power - that came with liberation has been replaced by a tide of rising repression. Instead of engaging the people of Southern Africa, comprador regimes suppress dissent, censor the media and deploy brute force against protestors.

It is time to prepare once again for a long march to reclaim our sovereignty, to resist the recolonization of our lands and people by old and new powers. Here we have in mind the United States which especially under Donald Trump is reverting to brutal modes of imperialism, the colonial powers from the European Union and the multilateral agencies they control. But we also must criticise Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa itself - collectively known as the BRICS - whose corporations are ruthlessly grabbing our natural resources, our land and industries - when not destroying them outright by dumping cheap products ranging from Chinese steel to Brazilian chickens.

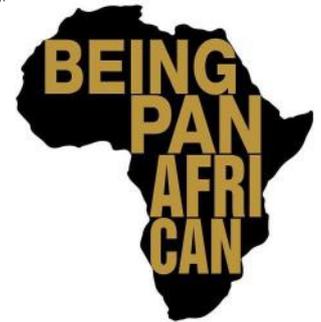
On the eve of the 37th SADC Summit we make a call for trade unions, the social movements of our region big and small, for activists, militants and radical intellectuals to converge in Johannesburg.

From 16 - 19 August at Constitutional Hill to begin the process of building a programme of resistance.

Resistance to the local elites, to patriarchal capitalism and its violence, to the imperialist corrupters and to warlords whose greed and cruelty are robbing our people of our present and future and in the process destroying the natural environment.

Ours will not be a mindless resistance but a struggle guided by a vision of solidarity of poor and working people united for an eco-feminist and eco-socialist future.

We no longer have the aspiration of reclaiming SADC. It has been captured, drained of every progressive impulse and made impotent in reconstructing a future free of oppression, exploitation and extractivism.



Every journey starts with the first small and tentative steps. When we march on the Heads of State Summit on 18 August we will be making those steps. By demanding a Southern Africa which recognises the right for the free movement of its people as opposed to destructive capital, we will be striking a blow against xenophobia, misogyny, sexism, racism, homophobia and all forms of prejudice



#PEOPLES SUMMIT

BUILDING PEOPLES POWER IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

When we march under banners demanding a basic income grant not less than the minimum wage paid from the profits of the extractive industries and exploitative financial and retail institutions, we will be recognising the blood and sweat of the working classes that have built the wealth of our societies. We will be giving visibility to the unpaid labour of the millions of women upon which our societies have been nourished. We will face up to our responsibilities to radically transform our carbon-addicted economies to ones with renewable energy, safe public transport, more efficient and compact cities, organic agriculture, zero-waste disposal and humane consumption norms. We will be demanding free, decolonised education as opposed to a free ride for foreign investment.

And when we hand over our memorandum of demands it will be indelibly inscribed with the right to say NO! – to say NO! to your mining, to your maldevelopment, to corruption to violence against women and nature.

Indeed, we will be marching for economic and social freedom based on the revolutionary transformation of the social and power relations on the land, in our towns and villages and in our factories and banks.

From now on we are mapping a path that forges a new solidarity rooted in the slogan: an injury to one is an injury to all!

#TowardsTheWorldWeWant