

# **EPWP CONTRACTS ARE ENDING! - WORKERS MUST MOBILISE NOW TO STRUGGLE FOR PERMANENT JOBS**

EPWP workers' contracts are ending on 31 March next year. Yet again, workers face uncertainty about their futures. The so-called 'training' that the Department provided out of our last struggle turned out to be bogus – three weeks of training for an unaccredited certificate from the corrupt Bosasa! No serious skills can be imparted in that time.

## **THE ONLY SOLUTION IS PERMANENT JOBS!**

We need to mobilise again and unite all EPWP workers in a broad and democratic campaign involving workers from each and every programme and from each and every department.

Workers must link-up with the outsourced workers in PRASA and elsewhere.

### **When we sit down with the Department we must demand the following:**

- **Organise and struggle for permanent jobs!** EPWP workers to be absorbed as permanent employees by the departments where they work, e.g. workers in hospitals to be absorbed by the Dept. of Health; workers in schools to be absorbed by the Dept. of Education. Recognise length of service.
- **Scrap stipends! For wages and payslips!** No exemptions to the R3,500 national minimum wage. All EPWP workers to be covered by the national minimum wage as a step toward a living wage of R12,500.
- **No Mickey Mouse training or certificates! For serious, accredited and recognised qualification certificates after skills training.** Kick out Bosasa – bring in the TVETs. Transport or transport money to be provided; all training to be fully catered. Guaranteed jobs at the end of training.
- **Decent pensions for workers at retirement age and for older workers!** Pension amount to be calculated on national minimum wage, recognising length of service. Optional early retirement on the same terms for all workers aged 55-65.
- **Scrap the Ministerial Determination!** Recognise EPWP 'participants' as workers. Fight for full trade union rights for EPWP workers! For full equality under the Labour Relations Act, Basic Conditions of Employment Act and other labour legislation. Campaign in the trade unions for the full recognition of EPWP workers' democratic rights from day one of membership. Elect shop stewards among all EPWP workers.

**The economic and political crisis of capitalism is so severe that no group of workers can fight in a silo alone. The very foundations of the rotten capitalist system need to be re-laid in the interests of the working class. To do this, EPWP workers must link up with other workers, especially those in the Saftu trade union federation, who have repeatedly committed themselves to organising the unorganised.**

### **The working class must unite around a socialist programme to end the scourge of unemployment and poverty:**

- **Workers' economic planning to end unemployment!** Demand the working week is reduced to 30 hours with no cuts in pay. Share out the work with the unemployed, organised through the democratic control of hiring and firing and the re-design of shift patterns by workers' representatives. Build a united mass campaign of workers, unemployed and the precariously employed (e.g. EPWP workers) to end unemployment!
- **Nationalise under democratic working class and community control the banks, the mines, the big commercial farms, the big factories and big businesses.** A publicly owned and democratically planned socialist economy to meet the needs of all and not the profits of the capitalists.
- **Forge the fighting unity of the working class in a party of mass struggle.** Build a socialist mass workers party to unite the struggles of the workplaces, the communities and the youth as a vital step toward the creation of a mass revolutionary party to lead the transformation of society