

I READ with dismay the article 'NUNW backs Mugabe' (*The Namibian*, January 22). The criticism of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) opposition to Mugabe by the President of the National Union of

NUNW Makes Peace With The Black Elite

Namibian Workers (NUNW) is quite extraordinary and does not bode well for working class solidarity in the region. The NUNW leadership

criticises from a conservative black nationalism position and seems to be taking its political cue from the Swapo leadership in this regard. The

politics of the NUNW leadership is about making peace with the black elite in order to get a seat in parliament. Their political vision is of a re-

formist kind; they show no class solidarity and therefore do not represent the interests of the Namibian working class.

The reformist trade union leadership sounds like the apartheid government when they say that Zimbabwe should be left to resolve its differences internally. But what about defending democratic principles in Zimbabwe? What about working class solidarity? This conservative union leadership in Namibia gets away with its collaboration because it is unfortunately true that Namibians have a low level of political consciousness and that Namibia is a graveyard of revolutionary struggle at

this time. There are so many crucial working class issues that could have been addressed at the NUNW congress, for example:

- * Fighting for work for all. Every Namibian should have work. Unemployment is around 40 per cent and pressure should be put on Government to initiate public works projects, etc.

- * Stop privatisation of essential services like water and electricity so that these could be affordable to all. Every Namibian should have water and electricity.
- * Free HIV-AIDS medication for all. Every Namibian who is HIV-AIDS positive should receive free ge-

neric medication. Medication could be made available through parallel import or local production.

With such a small population size we cannot afford to lose people through this pandemic. * Seek alternatives to neo-liberalism and corporate globalisation. These development strategies have not worked and different approaches have to be debated. Capitalism is in severe crisis and is dragging us into another great depression.

The NUNW leadership is not up to the task of taking the right path for the Namibian working class. Who are the real puppets?

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