

# *A culture Bulletin*

**H**ere are some more poems and words of songs to contribute to working class culture. Our thanks to Thobile Maso, worker poet, for permission to use his poems. The songs are taken from an article by Elsabe Brink in a 1984 *Bulletin*. The songs were sung by the Garment Workers' Union in the 1930s and 1940s. If you are interested in more workers' poetry, Ditsela has published a collection called *Revolution revived: a collection of working class poetry*. You can call Ditsela at (011) 403-2155 and speak to Ayanda or Thozama.

## **O, do not bow**

*(The Garment Worker, March/April 1941. Translation: Elsabe Brink, SA Labour Bulletin, vol 9 no 8. To the tune of 'Bobbejaan klim die berg'.)*

*O, do not bow and do not sway  
to slavery and fascist law  
We should all unite and together stand  
Such low wages are no fun*

## **We women too share in the fight**

*(Translation: Elsabe Brink, SA Labour Bulletin, vol 9 no 8. Composed for a Garment Workers' Union rally for a living wage in February 1940.)*

*We women too share in the fight,  
We too, work, build our land*

*compiled by Etienne Vlok*

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*We women, half of our nation  
Fight for the progress of South Africa.*

## **Solidarity forever**

*Thobile Maso, SAMWU*

*Socialism is my future  
I have nothing to lose  
It makes me to be conscious of myself  
Though I live in the miserable  
situation  
I will fear no brutality  
Because the working class is with me  
Marxism and Leninism is my  
compass  
It guides me against the temptation of  
the Capitalism  
It restores my conviction  
Agitating and mobilising the  
masses  
Workers' militancy is my strength  
I will devote my life forever  
To fight for socialism*

*Solidarity forever*

*Mobilise communities mobilise  
Mobilise campuses mobilise*

*Mobilise workers mobilise  
Mobilise women mobilise*

*Solidarity forever*

*Decolonialisation of mind is education  
in time*

*From poverty line to bread line*

*Let the red flag fly high again*

*Worker to worker*

*Country to country*

*Solidarity forever*

*Abolish brutality abolish*

*Abolish barbarism abolish*

*Abolish cabalism abolish*

*Abolish capitalism abolish*

*Solidarity forever*

*Thieves and invaders are suffocating  
the nation*

*Global villains are destroying the  
humanity*

*Vampires are sucking the blood of  
industrial soldiers*

*The daylight robbers are back*

*Solidarity forever*

*Organise our people organise*

*Organise our proletariats organise*

*Organise for revolution organise*

*Organise for socialism organise*

*Communes forever*

*Communism forever*

*Solidarity forever*

## **Tribute to the Cuban people**

*Tobile Maso, SAMWU*

*Socialism is the future*

*Lies they have sneezed*

*Truth they have killed*

*Undertakers wait and confuse*

*Life is living bread is shared*

*Socialism is the future*

*They poison the water in order to kill  
the fish*

*They speak like saints and act like  
devils*

*They preach democracy and act like  
bureaucrats*

*The little island, the universal  
obsession*

*Threatens no one but is under  
siege*

*Socialism is the future*

*The blows of reactionaries are  
showering like hail*

*Why you shrink like rabbits in the  
storm*

*The final goal is yet to come*

*The victory is certain each one teach  
one*

*Socialism is the future*

*Declaration of point of  
departure*

*the aim is not dispute*

*The action is argument of means to  
the end*

*Struggle is victory*

*Guided revolution is  
humanity*

*Socialism is the future*

*Let the means to turn the tides*

*From Africa, Cuba to Russia*

*Keep the fire on*

*The world is full of misery*

*Socialism is the future*

*Build it now! Build it now!*