

2018 PEOPLE SUMMIT-WINDHOEK

THE CONCEPT

The People's Summit is a platform for social movements in the Southern African Region made up of people and their formations in their countries under the sub regional bloc Southern African Development Community. The Social Movements represent class conscious sectors involved in various forms of struggle against imperialism today masquerading as e neo-liberalism. The sharp contrast between neo liberalism and the pro-poor development policy is that the former claims to advance development yet it places at the very core of access to basic services the so called cost recovery otherwise a naked profit accumulated at the misery of the people who put politicians in power who are later controlled and corrupted by the Corporates. When the Frontline States formed Southern African Development Coordinating Conference the purpose was to lessen dependence of the region on apartheid South Africa and dislodge its stronghold in and outside South Africa. A transition from SADCC with "two Cs" to SADC with "One C" marked triumph over apartheid hence a shift from a "Conference" to the "Community". This was for the people of the region to be a community not of leaders of the regional alone as it appears to be the case now but of the people of the region.

The People's Summit runs parallel to the SADC Summit of the Heads of State and Government deliberately to remind politicians that SADC was never meant to be a club of leaders only but a platform for the well-being of the people. The SADC People Summit is a continuation of the struggle emanating from and sustained at the national levels.

While leaders sit and agree on how to best implement neo-liberal economic policies over their people to benefit the rich, the SADC People Summit is inspired by the struggles and the successes people register in their resistance of the capitalist interests. This rich tradition of comrades empowering one another is anchored on the thematic breakaways on social, economic, environmental, climate, natural resources, human rights, anti-corruption, debt, political emancipation, health, HIV and AIDS, access to cure and services, disadvantaged groups and key populations, accountability, transparency and many more led and attended by comrades from various ends.

The plenary debate thereafter consolidates the deliberations into a final Declaration of the SADC People Summit ordinarily as a matter of tradition presented to the Heads through a street theatre to allow every citizen to demonstrate support and solidarity to the cause advanced by the messages on the placards.

In the SADC region people are suffering from various social ills many of which are avoidable. However state in this region has betrayed the hope of the people that it can deliver development. Through their movements the people of the region share ideas for the alternatives on the following broad thematic issues forming the Agenda for 2018 People's Summit:

1. Land Access
 - ✓ Land for housing,
 - ✓ Natural resource governance
2. Economic Freedom
 - ✓ Tax justice,
 - ✓ Corruption,
 - ✓ Labour rights,
 - ✓ Decent jobs and employment
3. Trade, Debt and Aid
 - ✓ Debt management,
 - ✓ Simplified Trade,
 - ✓ Double Tax
4. Human security
 - ✓ Violence/xenophobia,
 - ✓ Human/Child Trafficking,
 - ✓ Peace building
5. Governance and human Rights
 - ✓ Elections,
 - ✓ Strengthening of SADC Observer mission,
 - ✓ Civic and political participation and development,
 - ✓ Movement Building and mass mobilization as tools for social change in SADC
6. Youth Participation and employment in decision making in Southern Africa
7. State of Service Delivery in SADC
 - ✓ Health (Chronic diseases, HIV/AIDS),
 - ✓ Water (Quality, Accessibility and Availability),
 - ✓ Education (Affordability, Accessibility and quality)

What are you doing in your country or at regional level? What does your organisation do to have a more peaceful and just world? What are the challenges and success on your way? We need that experience, do not live with it alone, don't hide it, come out and share! Book a breakaway and let the like-minded join!!

Indicate your interest so that we make proper arrangements for your participation at this year's SADC People Summit. Just fill in the Activity the form attached and let us know how you are participating at the Summit. Send your completed form to the secretariat on the following email addresses shalesofonea@yahoo.com, janet@zimcodd.co.zw, aishalee@ndt.org.na, rinaanim@yahoo.com and copy to senyane@yahoo.co.uk and flossyn@yahoo.com or you can call +266 57235192, +266 58854920,+263 775415685, +2637729699330,+264 812409602, +264 815615191