

# **The Role of the Angolan Worker in the National Revolution**

## **MPLA**

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Trade unionism is the organization of workers for the defence of their own interests against capitalist exploitation. Our experience from the evolution of human society teaches us that the worker can only obtain his demands by uniting with other workers in the daily struggle against capitalist exploitation. This is the source of the principle of trade unionism.

But there are different types of trade unions: revolutionary trade unions of the masses, reformist trade unions, confessional trade unions, etc. Only the first one may be called a vanguard organization for the working class, since it is the only one which defends the interests of the exploited class, having a democratic structure at every level of the union movement under a form of organization based on Democratic Centralism.

Who are the Angolan workers? Workers are all those who, deprived of the means of production (land, machines, tractors, etc.) are forced to sell their labour (physical or mental) to the capitalists in exchange for a miserable wage, while the capitalists accumulate larger and larger gains, so that the workers live in impoverished conditions with an extremely low standard of living.

Angolan society is made up of the following groups: peasants, wage workers (i.e. workers in railways, ports, mines, factories, etc.), a small national bourgeoisie, and an insignificant intellectual class. The wage-earning class is one of the most developed and dynamic, due to the permanent contact which it maintains with the intellectual stratum, together with the great technical development of the urban centres in which it is located. The peasant class is also one of its natural allies since both classes share a common enemy – capitalist, colonialist and neo-colonialist exploitation – and a common objective, which is to raise their already very low standard of living. The intellectuals, together with some revolutionaries from the national bourgeoisie, struggle on the side of the working class to defeat the oppressor.

It is not by chance that the Angolan Revolution has had its beginning in the cities where there is a large concentration of workers. History tells us that on February 4, 1961, a handful of patriots set the process of armed

struggle in motion as an answer to the oppression and exploitation of the Portuguese colonialists and their allies, the NATO imperialists.