

Capitalism

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tween the United States and Russia. There are clear signs that mounting differences over economic policies are leading to a resurgence of the old antagonisms between the US and Germany and other European countries. Within its "own" hemisphere, relations between Washington and Latin American states are deteriorating.

15. The determination of American imperialism to maintain its dominant position in the global capitalist system creates innumerable scenarios, involv-

ing many different states, which lead to military conflict. One or another of these scenarios, or some unforeseen variation, will ultimately be played out in reality. This, in fact, is the expectation of the American military. The official 2010 analysis of the Joint Operating Environment (JOE), published by the United States Joint Forces Command, bluntly declares in its introduction: "War has been a principal driver of change over the course of history, and there is no reason to believe that the future will differ in this respect." There is only one way that another catastrophic world war can be prevented, and that is through the international political mobilization of the

working class in the struggle for socialism. The American working class must and will play a central role in this global struggle.

16. The Obama administration's failure to take any significant measures to alleviate the economic distress of tens of millions of working class Americans testifies to the supreme reality of political life in the United States: the total control maintained by the multi-billion-dollar corporations and the super-rich over all branches of government and the two-party system. The executive branch, Congress, the judiciary and state and local governments are subservient to corporate interests. No legislation can be enacted and no

measure can be taken that is perceived by the capitalist class as a threat to its interests and wealth. American democracy is ever more nakedly a government of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich. The growth and concentration of personal wealth during the past 30 years, which has produced a degree of social inequality higher than any other advanced capitalist country, is the outcome of tax cuts and the repeal of laws and regulations that once placed restraints on the exploitative activities of the corporations.

17. The concentration of staggering sums of money in the hands of a small fraction of the population, the consequence of

private ownership of the means of production, is not only socially obscene. It is, more significantly, economically destructive and incompatible with the critical needs of society, within the United States and internationally. This is the age of a globally integrated mass society. Approximately seven billion people inhabit our planet. Three hundred million people live in the United States. All the great social problems that confront modern society—the provision of food and other basic necessities, education, medical care, housing, social infrastructure, the development of natural resources—require solutions that are collective, not individual, in their character. There is a desperate need for the rational development of global economic resources and their utilization in the interests of the world's people. Moreover, the technological advances and economic growth that are required to abolish poverty and meet the ever-rising social and cultural needs of people cannot be achieved without a scientifically grounded awareness of the complex and life-threatening problems confronting the ecology of our planet.

18. None of these problems can be addressed in a country and a world where all important economic decisions are made by privately owned corporations. The crazed speculation in subprime mortgages that precipitated the worldwide financial crash of 2008 demonstrated how the world economy is at the mercy of the ravenous and socially criminal pursuit of personal wealth. And, if that lesson was not sufficient, the ecological catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico—polluted by hundreds of millions of gallons of crude oil—is a historic exposure of the socially toxic character of privately owned corporations. It has already been established that BP either ignored or consciously violated even the most basic safety procedures in its pursuit of profit. BP's criminal behavior was abetted by successive US administrations, Republican and Democratic.

19. Despite the magnitude of the disaster produced by the explosion of BP's Deepwater Horizon oil rig, the Obama administration remains paralyzed in the face of the massive power, economic and political, exerted by BP and other transnational corporations. In a telling and predictable demonstration of his obeisance to corporate power, the president declared that he has no wish to undermine the financial viability of BP. Just as the Wall Street financiers were never held criminally liable for the economic devastation caused by their reckless speculation, BP too has been sheltered from the consequences of its actions. More important than the fate of BP and its executives are the deeper economic roots of this catastrophe. The basic source of not only the catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico, but of the innumerable forms taken by the expanding economic crisis, lies in the ruthless subordi-

nation of the economic and social interests of the masses of working people to the pursuit of profit and personal wealth by capitalist corporations that own and control the means of production.

The Bankruptcy of Liberalism and the Democratic Party

20. The economic crisis that exploded in the autumn of 2008 continues, with no end in sight. The Obama administration has sought to cover up the ineffectiveness of its pathetic half-measures with hollow rhetoric. More and more, its response to the crisis recalls that of Herbert Hoover after the 1929 crash. In that earlier period of economic crisis, a liberal journal commented: "For eighteen months unemployment has been spreading poverty and acute suffering through industrial and agricultural areas alike. No one yet knows when the present economic disaster will be brought to an end. The illusory years have given way to fearful economic insecurity and to widespread despair. These eighteen months have revealed the hypocrisy of the President's pledge of cooperation toward the attainment of economic security. The Administration's efforts to attain economic security have consisted of attempts to minimize the seriousness of the depression, of bold assurances that steps which would restore prosperity were about to be taken, and of a woefully unsuccessful program to stimulate private or local agencies to undertake tasks which the Administration was determined to shirk."¹

21. These words, written in 1931, were an indictment of the policies of the Hoover administration. They serve just as well as a description of the Obama administration's response to the economic and social disaster. The failure is not merely that of a president, but of an entire political system and the capitalist economic order that it defends. There remains no small number of liberal Democrats who hope against hope that the administration will suddenly change course and proclaim with appropriate fanfare the second coming of Roosevelt's "New Deal." Their dreams are in vain. The corporate and financial oligarchy that dictates policies to the Democrats and Republicans is demanding the application of ever more savage doses of austerity.

22. When American capitalism was approaching the pinnacle of its global power and influence, its leaders acknowledged that the political rights enumerated in the US Constitution were, by themselves, insufficient to guarantee equality and allow the "pursuit of happiness." In his State of the Union address delivered in January 1944, President Roosevelt declared: "We cannot be content . . . if some fraction of our people—whether it be one-third or one-fifth or one-tenth—is ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed and insecure." He stated that it had become "self-evident" that "true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence." As part of his efforts to refurbish capitalism, which had



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RE: ADVERTISING OF VACANCIES

DIRECTORATE: HOUSING, HABITAT, PLANNING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COORDINATION,
SUBDIVISION: PLANNING

1 X POST DESIGNATION: Town and Regional Planner Grade 4A (P) Level 1
SALARY SCALE : N\$ N\$ 239 061 x P -N\$255 783
DUTY STATION : Windhoek

Functions: It will be expected from this official to provide support to Regional and Local Authorities to set up and maintain CAD/GIS offices in their respective head offices in line with the Decentralization Policy. Further responsibilities include:

- Ø Management of mapping and data base.
- Ø Compiling and recording of land use information.
- Ø Maintaining aerial photography system.
- Ø Maintaining digital town planning and engineering plans.
- Ø Continuous updating of existing maps, plans and aerial photography.
- Ø Maintaining a cadastral map record system.
- Ø Designing and drawing of town layout plans.
- Ø Drawing of general cartographical and regional development maps.
- Ø Maintenance of CAD (Computer Aided Design) and GIS (Geographical Information Systems).
- Ø Maintenance of report/maps on proclamation status of settlements, towns and villages.
- Ø Recommend purchase of appropriate hardware and software and maintain records related to maintenance contracts, license agreements and equipment needs.
- Ø Monitoring of Regional and Local Authority drawing offices.
- Ø Coordinating training of Regional and Local Authority drawing office personnel.
- Ø Liaise with Regions on data available to them with special regard to accuracy of layout plans of settlement, town and villages.
- Ø Liaise with NPC and other institutions involved in GIS initiatives and data sharing.
- Ø Liaise and supervise the planners in the manipulation and management of the cadastral data and other land information.

Minimum Requirements: A four (4) year B-Degree in Town and Regional Planning plus eight (8) years appropriate experience as well as CAD/GIS qualifications.

Enquiries:

- 1) **Human Resource Practitioner** – Mrs. D.U. Kasetura at **Tel. no. – 061-2975103**
2) **Concerned Directorate** – Mr. M. Shikongo at **Tel. no. – 061- 2975046**

Closing date: 17 September 2010

Completed Application form (on form 156043 obtainable at all Government Offices) together with a comprehensive Curriculum Vitae and certified copies of educational qualifications must be submitted to:

The Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development
Private Bag 13289, WINDHOEK

An attractive range of benefits includes a housing subsidy (subject to certain conditions), assistance with removal expenses, vehicle/transport allowance, pension fund, medical aid scheme and ample vacation and sick leave.

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