

Myth of reconciliation

The letter in your January 4 edition entitled "Only the eradication of capitalism can usher in a nonracial society" refers to the Battle of Blood River, and goes on to discuss the important contribution of Ben and Helen Kies and others in elucidating the pernicious role racialism has played in propping up the system of capitalism in this country.

The history of this country is one of colonial conquest, involving violent land-grabbing and the wage-enslavement of the indigenous population through systems of segregation and apartheid.

Naked force and legislation have been the instruments used by the imperialist masters and their local agents to

first put in place the system of capitalist exploitation, and then to ensure its perpetuation.

The year 1994 did nothing to dismantle this — on the contrary, 1994 was all about "updating" the system of oppression and exploitation by providing a neoliberal veneer to it.

So, when we are asked by the ruling ANC government to treat December 16 as a day of reconciliation, we are actually being asked to reconcile ourselves to the system of capitalist exploitation that was put in place by British imperialism, and perpetuated by our domestic bourgeoisie.

We are being asked to reconcile ourselves to a reality

where the vast majority of our people are forced to live in a state of extreme poverty and degradation, while a tiny handful of our citizens enjoy unparalleled levels of luxury.

For the rulers of this country, nonracialism means that a chosen few individuals who were previously disadvantaged under apartheid legislation can now become super-rich and privileged.

That SA in the modern era has become known as the protest capital of the world is an indication that the mass of downtrodden working-class people have seen through the hoax of stratagems such as the "Day of Reconciliation".

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