



Numsa Media Monitor

Friday 1 July 2016

A daily compilation of local, national and international articles dealing with labour related issues

Numsa

Media groups, Numsa rally behind suspended SABC journalists

Masa Kekana, EWN, 30 June 2016

The trio are reportedly being charged with misconduct for raising questioning editorial policies.

JOHANNESBURG – The group Media Monitoring Africa says the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) board has dismally failed journalists at the public broadcaster – by punishing staff who question its new policies.

This week, three senior SABC journalists wrote to Chief Operations Officer Hlaudi Motsoeneng describing a climate of fear and low morale in the news room.

Acting Chief Executive Officer Jimi Matthews resigned, citing the “corrosive atmosphere” at work.

National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa), Media Monitoring Africa and other groups will join the ‘Black Friday’ protest outside the SABC tomorrow, to support the journalists who are now reportedly being charged with misconduct.

Director at Media Monitoring Africa William Bird says he is not surprised at reports that senior journalists Krivani Pillay, Busisiwe Ntuli and Jacques Steenkamp may be facing disciplinary action tomorrow. This follows their letter raising concerns about new editorial policies.

Numsa’s Patrick Craven says the SABC staff in question need the country’s full support, while Bird says what’s more troubling is the board’s lack of intervention.

“The board has allowed, and has sanctioned, these actions to go forward. On Tuesday, we saw them express full support for Mr Motsoeneng.”

He says all South Africans should show their support and take a stand against the new editorial policies, which he says amount to censorship.

While the SABC insists there is no revolt at the public broadcaster, the South African National Editors Forum (Sanef) says the country needs to rally behind journalists who are being prevented from doing their jobs.

A picket will be held at the SABC’s offices in Cape Town and Johannesburg tomorrow, to show solidarity with employees who’ve spoken out over censorship.

Sanef’s Adriaan Basson says, “Things have taken a turn for the worst this week; we have seen journalists being suspended for expressing their views, journalists’ independence being under threat and being suspended for posing executive interference and decision making so we are protesting tomorrow morning.”

<http://ewn.co.za/2016/06/30/Media-groups-Numsa-rally-behind-suspended-SABC-journalists>

SABC charges against journalists 'unprecedented' - union

Paul Herman, News24, 30 June 2016

Cape Town - A union spokesperson said the internal charges brought against three SABC journalists by the public broadcaster on Thursday is unprecedented, and is “clearly a case of victimisation and bullying”.

Three senior staff members of the SABC, Busisiwe Ntuli, Krivani Pillay and Jacques Steenkamp, were charged on Thursday for liaising with the media without having permission from authorities.

Hannes du Buisson, spokesperson for the Broadcasting, Electronic, Media and Allied Workers Union (Bemawu), said the union is opposing the charges because it is “unprecedented”, and does not comply with the SABC’s disciplinary code.

Their disciplinary processes are due to commence at 09:00 on Friday, having been notified at 12:00 on Thursday.

“In the 20 years I’ve been involved with the SABC, they have not given less than 24 hours’ notice in disciplinary cases. This is clearly a case of victimisation and bullying,” Buisson told News24 on Thursday.

“They must give 24 hours’ notice. It’s always been two, three days’ notice, to ensure the person is properly prepared and has representatives with them.”

The journalists are alleged to have spoken to The Star, The Citizen, eNCA, News24 and other newspapers without having had permission to do so.

Earlier suspensions

Buisson said that the three employees suspended last week, Thandeka Gqubule, Foeta Krige and Suna Venter, could also have further disciplinary meetings on Friday, but this was not official, he added.

SABC spokesperson Kaizer Kganyago chose not to comment on the alleged charges against Ntuli, Pillay and Steenkamp, saying to News24 earlier: "Even if I was aware, I would not disclose it publicly."

The three wrote a letter over the weekend to COO Hlaudi Motsoeneng, expressing their dissatisfaction with how operations have been managed at the SABC over the last few weeks.

"Our newsroom has become a source of derision, despair and criticism from the people that we are fundamentally accountable to, the public at large," the letter read.

"The developments of the past week have heightened this sense of fear, lack of clarity about our journalistic responsibility and low staff morale."

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/sabc-charges-against-journalists-unprecedented-union-20160630>

'The SABC belongs to the people,' protesters tell public broadcaster

Ernest Mabuza, Sunday World, 1 July 2016

About 50 activists and journalists picketed outside the South African Broadcasting Corporation's (SABC) offices in Auckland Park offices in Johannesburg on Friday morning against perceived censorship by the public broadcaster.

The picket follows the sudden resignation of acting chief executive officer of SABC Jimi Matthews on Monday, citing a "corrosive" atmosphere at the broadcaster.

His resignation also follows the suspension of three senior SABC journalists — Thandeka Gqubule, Foeta Krige and Suna Venter — last week for defying SABC chief operating officer Hlaudi Motsoeneng's orders not to cover an anti-censorship march at its offices.

The three were supposed to attend a disciplinary hearing on Friday morning on misconduct charges.

Trade union Solidarity indicated on Thursday it would seek a postponement for two of its members: Krige and Venter

While this was supposed to be a silent picket, the journalists chanted a number of slogans, including. "The SABC belongs to the people", "Journalism is not a crime", "No to censorship", "SABC belongs to all of us", "Reinstate them", "We support our colleagues" and "Show us everything".

<http://www.sundayworld.co.za/news/2016/07/01/the-sabc-belongs-to-the-people-protesters-tell-public-broadcaster->

His Master's Voice - Why Hlaudi Motsoeneng Is Democratic SA's Biggest Threat

Ranjeni Munusamy

Ranjeni Munusami, Daily Maverick, 1 July 2016

Until this week, Hlaudi Motsoeneng, the holder of all power at the public broadcaster, was being written off as a megalomaniac on his own frolic at the SABC. But the ANC has now shown its hand, coming out in defence of Motsoeneng's total onslaught. Motsoeneng is moulding his own brand of political indoctrination out of the worst models of propaganda in history and taking media freedom hostage as he does so. This is no longer a laughing matter and society should not be looking away any more.

At the Topography of Terror monument in Berlin, Germany, a sign at the entrance to the museum reads: "Berlin 1933-1945 Between Propaganda and Terror". The sign is a reminder of the central role the propaganda machinery played in Nazi Germany's era of persecution and terror. Adolf Hitler's chief attack dog was Joseph Goebbels, who directed the propaganda machinery to acquire total power and control the minds of an entire nation. The reign of terror would not have been possible without effective indoctrination and complete control of every aspect of communications in Germany through the Second World War.

The problems at the SABC started long before the matric-less Hlaudi Motsoeneng's rise to power. The SABC was a key instrument of apartheid South Africa's machinery and with its size and reach, through 19 radio stations and now four television stations, the "public" broadcaster has continued to serve as a powerful political tool. During the democratic era, the SABC has been on a constant ebb and flow with financial crises and senior management coming and going. There have been phases in the past where censorship and editorial bias were prevalent, but they pale in comparison to the Era of Hlaudi, with a wholesale takeover of editorial policy and programming.

When it comes to survival tactics, it is only President Jacob Zuma who can rival Motsoeneng. Both are able to shake off scandals, adverse court rulings and damning

Public Protector reports, and are somehow strengthened by them. Perhaps their common invincibility is the secret to their alliance.

Motsoeneng was fired from the SABC in 2007 when he was a current affairs producer at Lesedi FM. He fought his way back into the public broadcaster despite a long drawn-out labour dispute that brought to light the fact that he misled the SABC about his qualifications. Motsoeneng was appointed as the general manager responsible for board and stakeholder relations in the group chief executive officer's office in February 2011, a position that opened his path to the top job. In December 2011, he was seconded to act as chief operating officer and has been an unstoppable force since then.

In February 2014, Public Protector Thuli Madonsela released a report, "When Governance and Ethics Fail", which found that Motsoeneng was "unethical" and "dishonest" about claiming to have a matric certificate. She also found that his conduct was irregular and he was guilty of maladministration for improperly escalating people's salaries. The remedial action prescribed by Madonsela was that the SABC board should take disciplinary action against Motsoeneng.

The Supreme Court of Appeal ruled that Madonsela's report could not be ignored or second-guessed. The Constitutional Court judgment in the Nkandla matter removed all doubt about the standing of Public Protector reports, and even the president now has to comply with the remedial action prescribed in his case. While Zuma has agreed to pay back the money, Motsoeneng continues to dodge the rulings against him. He wriggled out of censure through a farcical SABC disciplinary hearing and was permanently appointed into the position of COO.

He has unchecked power, including over programming and news. Motsoeneng has gone from silly antics, such as ordering television news coverage of his colourful life, including a group of religious leaders praying over him and receiving a "bride" as a gift, to censoring news and suspending journalists. He has banned coverage of violent protest action and negative news about Zuma because he "deserves a certain degree of respect as president of the country". The SABC has canned shows featuring the views of editors and analysts, and journalists at the broadcaster have become progressively constrained about what they can say and who they can interview.

Motsoeneng's penchant for ludicrous statements and perspectives on journalism have escalated to bizarre levels in recent weeks. He told City Press recently that SABC employees were expected to "sing the song and talk the talk of the SABC".

"If the SABC releases a statement, our employees can't say 'the SABC said this'; they must say 'we are saying this or have decided on that'. They can't report like other broadcasters when they are part of any SABC decision," Motsoeneng told the paper. "I have been thinking maybe our employees should have uniforms so that they can understand unity," he professed.

Speaking at a media briefing this week following the sudden resignation of acting group chief executive officer Jimi Matthews, Motsoeneng denied that his actions constituted censorship:

“I don’t even know what censorship is. What is this censorship thing? It is English so I don’t know it. There is no censorship here,” he said.

The SABC has now suspended six journalists who have expressed their concerns about the strict editorial stance of the broadcaster. At a staff meeting on Tuesday, Motsoeneng told SABC employees to comply with his rules or to leave the broadcaster. The Star reported that Motsoeneng said at the meeting:

“If you are at the SABC, there is leadership, and if the leadership says you must turn right, you must turn right. If you turn left, you must get off the bus.”

The paper quoted an employee as saying:

“He said he was going to charge people and discipline them. His tone was very harsh. He also said the three suspended journalists may survive the axe but those standing in solidarity with them may lose their jobs.”

Director of Media Monitoring Africa William Bird says many SABC staffers are worried about being victimised and the atmosphere of fear at the broadcaster is growing. He said editorial interference was increasing with journalists being told, for example, that they were not allowed to broadcast any analysis of the spy tapes judgment against Zuma.

The skewed editorial positioning is particularly concerning during an election period as it is unashamedly intended to project the president and the ANC favourably. Until this week, the ANC could not be directly linked to Motsoeneng’s onslaught on the airwaves. It appeared that he and Communications Minister Faith Muthambi were on their own misguided mission to keep the favour of the president. But in reaction to Matthews’ resignation, ANC spokesman Zizi Kodwa said this week that the move was “opportunistic”. Kodwa was quoted by the SABC as saying that Matthews had allowed himself to be “used by those who... want to undermine the integrity of the public broadcaster”.

Matthews said in his resignation letter that there was a “corrosive atmosphere” at the SABC that had impacted negatively on his moral judgement and made him complicit in decisions he “was not proud of”.

“What is happening at the broadcaster is wrong and I can no longer be part of it,” he said. “I also wish to apologise to the many people who I’ve let down by remaining silent when my voice needed to be heard.”

Instead of being discerning about what Matthews and others have been saying about the chaos at the SABC, the ANC has opted to defend Motsoeneng’s reign of terror:

“I think clearly the intention is to add to the narrative that SABC is in disarray... he has allowed himself to be a tool to be used to attack the entire integrity of the SABC,” Kodwa said of Matthews.

Bird says the regression and assault on media freedom at the SABC has the sanction of Muthambi and the ANC. “It is astounding that the ANC has gone against its 100-year history of promoting media freedom,” Bird said.

A report by Media Monitoring Africa on media coverage of the 2016 local government elections shows that the ANC already enjoys the bulk of the voice, much higher than it did during the 2014 election campaign. The ANC now has 57% of the total media coverage compared to 38% in 2014. In comparison, the Democratic Alliance’s coverage dropped from 25% in 2014 to 16% now. The Economic Freedom Fighters’ coverage dropped from 13% to 11%. Bird said these percentages were largely affected by the SABC’s coverage patterns.

South African society has so far been largely tolerant of Motsoeneng’s antics and propaganda mission. In the context of a cycle of scandal and abuse of state institutions, the decay of the SABC is not out of the ordinary.

But through the power and resources of the public broadcaster, Motsoeneng has been allowed to infiltrate the homes and minds of millions of people around the country. He is able to do much more damage to a free and democratic society than any other state institution can by controlling access to information and people’s perspectives. Motsoeneng’s evasion of court rulings and legal procedures adds to the culture of impunity in our country. His assault on media freedom is an assault on the Constitution and the fundamentals of our democracy.

On Friday morning, the South African media fraternity begins a campaign to stand up to South Africa’s answer to Joseph Goebbels. Media freedom pickets will be held at the SABC headquarters in Auckland Park, Johannesburg and the broadcaster’s offices in Sea Point, Cape Town. The pickets are acts of solidarity with journalists forced to comply with Motsoeneng’s ridiculous editorial policies and those who have been suspended for speaking out against them. These pickets will hopefully awaken society to the clear and present danger of accepting indoctrination in an era when democratic institutions are under siege and those in power seek to hide their scandals and leadership failures.

Motsoeneng is as conceited as he is dangerous. Left unchecked, it is not just the SABC that he will destroy. It should not be forgotten that Goebbels succeeded Hitler as Chancellor of Germany, if only for a day.

Motsoeneng’s ambitions and political backers have brought him this far. Left unchecked, the SABC is unlikely to be the end of the road for the invincible Mr Motsoeneng. After successfully penetrating our living rooms, our workspaces and

our minds, the sky is the limit in terms of what Motsoeneng will do next. The onus is upon us, South Africans, to decide if we will let him.

<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2016-07-01-his-masters-voice-why-hlaudi-motsoeneng-is-democratic-sas-biggest-threat/#.V3ZC9U3lrIU>

South African workers

Amcu president, Mathunjwa arrives in Limpopo

eNCA, 29 June 2016

NORTHAM – Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu) president Joseph Mathunjwa received a hero's welcome in Northam in Limpopo on Wednesday, ahead of the memorial of service of a slain union member.

Amcu members, dressed in union green t-shirts, raised, clapped hands, while men whistled and women ululated as Mathunjwa walked into the tent at Smashed block informal settlement near Northam, flanked by Amcu national treasurer Jimmy Gama.

They were attending the memorial service of union member Thembinkosi Mhlabeni.

Mhlabeni, 52, was stabbed to death on June 6 when Amcu members clashed with rival National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) members near the R510 road between Northam and Thabazimbi.

Mhlabeni was a stope machine operator at Northam Platinum's Zondereinde Mine, where he had been employed for 12 years.

The clashes were triggered by the death of NUM member, Mthetheleli Somaxhama, 45, who had been gunned down on June 5, in Northam.

Gunmen shot him at a hiking spot in Northam before they drove off. He was a stope machine operator at Zondereinde mine, where he had been employed for 13 years.

<http://www.enca.com/south-africa/amcu-president-mathunjwa-arrives-in-limpopo>

Nehawu members to return to work after strike

Rahima Essop, EWN, 30 June 2016

Union members at Parliament refused to work after two staff members were suspended.

CAPE TOWN - National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) members in Parliament are expected to return to work after going on strike yesterday in a show of solidarity with their suspended colleagues.

The union's parliamentary branch chairperson, Sthembiso Tembe, and a colleague were suspended for their alleged role in disrupting staff meetings called by Secretary to Parliament Gengezi Mgidlana last week.

The work stoppage was a warning shot after months of strained relations.

Frustrated parliamentary staff will return to their posts to allow Nehawu's national office bearers time to intervene in the impasse.

The union's Western Cape Secretary, Eric Kweleta, says a meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday.

"These issues are very simple and straightforward. If the leadership of Parliament can have the will to resolve them then it will be resolved in no time."

The union and Mgidlana are at loggerheads over outstanding issues related to a strike last year.

The union's main demand is the reversal of salary deductions implemented under the "no work, no pay principle".

Parliament's management says the national legislature is an essential service which made yesterday's industrial action an unprotected and illegal work stoppage.

<http://ewn.co.za/2016/06/30/Nehawu-members-to-return-to-work-after-strike>

South Africa

ANC set to lose votes

Neo Goba, TimesLive, 29 June 2016

The ruling African National Congress may see a decline in support in the upcoming local government elections and possibly also in the next national and provincial elections scheduled for 2019 and 2024.

This is according to the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) which recently conducted a study in which they broadly classified two competing factions within the ANC.

ISS divided the two as "traditionalists" and "reformers".

The study describes traditionalists as those loyal to President Jacob Zuma, who "endorse socially conservative and highly redistributive policies, and a commitment to a centralised state".

On the other hand, reformers are "largely composed of urban social democrats with a commitment to inclusive economic growth", the analysis states.

"The former are paternalistic insiders, currently benefiting from the status quo, while the latter are generally outsiders, vying to gain access to the rich bounty of resources from which they are currently excluded," ISS states.

Zuma, who is currently serving his second term as ANC president, admitted earlier this year during the ANC's Rustenburg 104th anniversary, that this year's local government elections are going to be one of the toughest for the ruling party.

In the analysis, ISS noted a number of key milestones between now and 2024.

It says these will contribute to raising the political temperature between these two groups, and will determine the country's rate of economic and social progress.

"These include the municipal government elections scheduled for August 2016 and a likely international investment rating downgrade towards the latter part of 2016, or early in 2017. A third key milestone is the election of a new president of the ANC in December 2017 (or earlier – should Zuma step down in response to growing pressure for him to do so)," they stated.

Facts don't lie.

Support for the ANC is on a downward trajectory, from a high of 70% in 2004 to 62% in the 2014 national elections. Furthermore, protest is growing increasingly violent and election-related. Recent protests in Gauteng, Tshwane to be precise, North West and KwaZulu-Natal are classic examples.

"Our forecast – detailed in a recent Institute for Security Studies publication titled South Africa scenarios 2024 – suggests that the ANC could lose its national majority by 2024. This could happen as early as 2019 if the ANC splits in 2018, as we think could happen," ISS said.

All of this depends on the outcomes of the National Conference set for December 2017, when the party elects the 86 members of its National Executive Council (NEC) – including a new president.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2016/06/29/ANC-set-to-lose-votes>

DA warns of plot to destabilise Midvaal municipality

Wisani Makhubele, SABC, 29 June 2016

Mayor of Midvaal municipality in Gauteng, Bongani Baloyi says he's received information that municipal union Samwu and its alliance partner, the African National

Congress (ANC) are planning to destabilize the Democratic Alliance (DA) run municipality ahead of the elections.

Baloyi claims the parties have resolved to sabotage service delivery and bring chaos similar to the one recently witnessed in Tshwane.

Samwu has been at odds with the municipality over what it describes as poor working conditions, as well as allegations of racism within the municipality.

Baloyi says he has passed on the information about the alleged plot to authorities.

“We have alerted the authorities and made them aware of such. They must be on high alert. And this is also a potential threat to free and fair elections in Midvaal. And we cannot tolerate such intimidation or violence. The ANC is free to campaign in our area with ideas and can, but not bring violence and intimidation to our municipality and disrupt service delivery.”

Samwu spokesperson Papikie Mohale has dismissed the allegations, saying the DA is resorting to conspiracy theories in a bid to attract voters, and divert attention from workers' concerns.

“We believe their allegations are a conspiracy theory and in fact they are far-fetched. We're challenging the DA to substantiate and prove these allegations that they're making. As we believe they want to tarnish the good name of the union. And also to protect racists that are within their fold.”

<http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/1d4cdd804d4f41ee8f6ccf4b5facb1b5/DA-warns-of-plot-to-destabilise-Midvaal-municipality-20160629>

Cosatu slams racist Cape Town

Theto Mahlakoana, Independent Media, 30 June 20-16

Cape Town is the most divided and racist city in SA, according to Cosatu Western Cape secretary, Tony Ehrenreich.

He decried the sense of “them and us” which prevailed in the city, providing a privileged status to the rich at the expense of the poor.

The Cosatu leader alleged that the injustice was perpetuated by the DA led government in the city.

Cape Town transport racist, says ANC's Sotashe

“The political elites have chosen a side in this historical divide and it is reflected in the manner in which the city fathers and mothers relate to the different sections of Cape Town's Communities. The Mayor goes and meets with the private developers

to whom they give city land on the Atlantic seaboard, in their homes for lunch, whilst she wears gas mask when she goes to visit the communities on the Cape Flats.”

Ehrenreich addressed the Cape Town press club on Thursday, warning of rising levels of “social instability” that included crime and protests as a result of the city's failure to forge cohesion and bridge the social gap between its residents.

“Remind people that we are one nation that has all been affected by the past and we must work together to overcome the horrible legacy of the past. Our futures are intertwined and we must work together to undo the effect of neglect and preference that was a feature of apartheid, through a conscious programme of redress,” Ehrenreich said in his appeal to city leaders.

He called for service delivery to be prioritised in disadvantaged communities where there was urgent need than in other areas.

A number of initiatives were tabled in the address pointing to key areas of delivery which had to be focused on.

These included the extension of public transport services to the Cape Flats, resolution of housing allocation discrepancies and the empowerment of black workers and business owners.

“Greater need must determine the hierarchy of delivery, so that we respond to the social injury of decades of discrimination.

“Restructure the economy to provide jobs and opportunity for everyone, through redistribution of wealth that raises aggregate levels of demand. This alternative model of driving domestic demand through higher wages will bring greater equality and generate more disposable income in townships that will generate economic activities.”

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/cosatu-slams-racist-cape-town-2040407>

Xola Phakathi is ANC candidate for Buffalo City

Makhaya Komisa, SABC, 30 June 2016

The African National Congress in the Eastern Cape has announced Xola Phakathi as the Buffalo City Metro mayoral candidate.

Phakathi has been the deputy mayor for almost a year. He is the former Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) provincial secretary and former member of the Eastern Cape Legislature.

Last year, Phakathi was elected as Dr WB Rubusana Regional chairperson.

Xola Phakathi is regarded as a tried and tested leader of the ANC.

He grew up in the structures of Cosatu. He was the leader of Cosatu in the province.

Last year, Phakathi and Alfred Mtsi were deployed to Buffalo City Metro as deputy mayor and mayor respectively. Both leaders were mandated to bring the much-needed political and administrative stability in the municipality.

ANC provincial secretary Oscar Mabuyane says Phakathi has played a great role in the municipality.

“He is currently deputy of that municipality and he was part of the team sent in that municipality as part of intervention and we think that in terms of continuity he will handle things with care and as a metro we should be able to pull all stops to ensure that the ANC get what it deserves.”

Phakathi and Mtsi replaced former Buffalo City mayor Zukiswa Ncitha and her deputy Themba Tinta, who are allegedly involved in the Nelson Mandela funeral saga.

As part of bringing stability to the municipality, the ANC deployed Ncitha and Tina to the National Council of Provinces and Bisho Legislature respectively.

Mabuyane says the ruling party's intervention in the municipality has paid dividends so they want Phakathi to be back at the helm of municipality.

“Comrade Xola Phakathi the chairperson of the region in this Dr Rubusana region formerly known as is one of those who would have been out there much more covered having been the leader of Cosatu in province for some time and currently deputy mayor and you would understand the intervention we have made there in that region.”

Buffalo City Metro has been riddled with political and administrative chaos in the past few years

Buffalo City Metro has been riddled with political and administrative chaos in the past few years.

Almost two months ago, workers at the metro were protesting, demanding to be remunerated according to the status of the metro.

South African Municipal Workers Union Regional Secretary, Zolani Ndlela, says they hope that Phakathi will resolve the workers' problems at the municipality.

“We are going to look at him in terms of his posture towards workers and the frustrations that workers are facing now especially the issue of metro status where workers are demanding that they must be paid at level of metro and the issues of

reviewing policies and the respect of the law which governs the Labour Relations Act.”

<http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/585145804d52445abd01ff4b5facb1b5/Xola-Phakathi-is-ANC-candidate-for-Buffalo-City-20160630>

Comment and analysis

Democrats Need to Wake Up

Bernie Sanders, New York Times, 28 June 2016

Surprise, surprise. Workers in Britain, many of whom have seen a decline in their standard of living while the very rich in their country have become much richer, have turned their backs on the European Union and a globalized economy that is failing them and their children.

And it's not just the British who are suffering. That increasingly globalized economy, established and maintained by the world's economic elite, is failing people everywhere. Incredibly, the wealthiest 62 people on this planet own as much wealth as the bottom half of the world's population — around 3.6 billion people. The top 1 percent now owns more wealth than the whole of the bottom 99 percent. The very, very rich enjoy unimaginable luxury while billions of people endure abject poverty, unemployment, and inadequate health care, education, housing and drinking water.

Could this rejection of the current form of the global economy happen in the United States? You bet it could.

During my campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, I've visited 46 states. What I saw and heard on too many occasions were painful realities that the political and media establishment fail even to recognize.

In the last 15 years, nearly 60,000 factories in this country have closed, and more than 4.8 million well-paid manufacturing jobs have disappeared. Much of this is related to disastrous trade agreements that encourage corporations to move to low-wage countries.

Despite major increases in productivity, the median male worker in America today is making \$726 dollars less than he did in 1973, while the median female worker is making \$1,154 less than she did in 2007, after adjusting for inflation.

Nearly 47 million Americans live in poverty. An estimated 28 million have no health insurance, while many others are underinsured. Millions of people are struggling with outrageous levels of student debt. For perhaps the first time in modern history, our younger generation will probably have a lower standard of living than their parents.

Frighteningly, millions of poorly educated Americans will have a shorter life span than the previous generation as they succumb to despair, drugs and alcohol.

Meanwhile, in our country the top one-tenth of 1 percent now owns almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent. Fifty-eight percent of all new income is going to the top 1 percent. Wall Street and billionaires, through their “super PACs,” are able to buy elections.

On my campaign, I’ve talked to workers unable to make it on \$8 or \$9 an hour; retirees struggling to purchase the medicine they need on \$9,000 a year of Social Security; young people unable to afford college. I also visited the American citizens of Puerto Rico, where some 58 percent of the children live in poverty and only a little more than 40 percent of the adult population has a job or is seeking one.

Let’s be clear. The global economy is not working for the majority of people in our country and the world. This is an economic model developed by the economic elite to benefit the economic elite. We need real change.

But we do not need change based on the demagoguery, bigotry and anti-immigrant sentiment that punctuated so much of the Leave campaign’s rhetoric — and is central to Donald J. Trump’s message.

We need a president who will vigorously support international cooperation that brings the people of the world closer together, reduces hypernationalism and decreases the possibility of war. We also need a president who respects the democratic rights of the people, and who will fight for an economy that protects the interests of working people, not just Wall Street, the drug companies and other powerful special interests.

We need to fundamentally reject our “free trade” policies and move to fair trade. Americans should not have to compete against workers in low-wage countries who earn pennies an hour. We must defeat the Trans-Pacific Partnership. We must help poor countries develop sustainable economic models.

We need to end the international scandal in which large corporations and the wealthy avoid paying trillions of dollars in taxes to their national governments.

We need to create tens of millions of jobs worldwide by combating global climate change and by transforming the world’s energy system away from fossil fuels.

We need international efforts to cut military spending around the globe and address the causes of war: poverty, hatred, hopelessness and ignorance.

The notion that Donald Trump could benefit from the same forces that gave the Leave proponents a majority in Britain should sound an alarm for the Democratic Party in the United States. Millions of American voters, like the Leave supporters, are understandably angry and frustrated by the economic forces that are destroying the middle class.

In this pivotal moment, the Democratic Party and a new Democratic president need to make clear that we stand with those who are struggling and who have been left behind. We must create national and global economies that work for all, not just a handful of billionaires.

Bernie Sanders, a senator from Vermont, is a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/29/opinion/campaign-stops/bernie-sanders-democrats-need-to-wake-up.html?_r=0
