IN DEFENSE OF THE LIFE OF THE BRAZILIAN PEOPLE
EMERGENCY MEASURES FOR PEOPLE'S AGRARIAN REFORM!

The coronavirus pandemic and the effects on workers and the poor, aggravate the consequences of the crisis of capitalism that affects the economy, politics, society and nature.

Given this, it is necessary to democratize access to land, distribute wealth and defend the rights of rural people. We present to society measures that can quickly promote the creation of thousands of jobs, produce food for all people, advance trade, guarantee income and decent living conditions.

1. LAND AND WORK
a) Settle thousands of families who are now in encampments, unemployed and on the outskirts of cities.

b) Expropriate unproductive estates and areas close to cities to facilitate the production and settlement of families from the outskirts of cities.

c) Collect, at no cost, 6 million hectares from only 729 companies/families who owe the federal government more than R$ 200 billion and own these lands.

d) Allocate existing public lands and vacant lands for emergency settlements.

e) Exchange the debts owed by the big landowners to public banks for land.

f) Suspend all evictions and repossessions.

g) Legalize all quilombola areas as well as the areas of indigenous peoples and riverside and native communities.

h) Ensure the integrity and preservation of indigenous reserves and environmental areas, expelling invaders, squatters, loggers and illegal miners who exploit and devastate these lands.

i) Suspend subsidies and tax exemptions for pesticide companies and apply the funds to Agrarian Reform.

2. PRODUCTION OF HEALTHY FOOD
a) Allocate the necessary resources to expand the Food Acquisition Program, with advance purchase of peasant production by the National Supply Company, which generates work and food for all the people.

b) Ensure compliance with the National School Food Program during social distancing, with healthy food to serve children and their families.

c) Finance and disseminate agricultural machinery for family and peasant agriculture.

d) Implement the national agroecology plan to guarantee healthy food.

e) Organize agro-ecological urban gardens to provide employment for everyone who wants to work in them and produce food.

f) Use special lines of credit from public banks to finance cooperative agribusinesses for food production and release emergency funding for settlements, stimulating production.
3. Protect nature, water and biodiversity

a) We must all look after springs and other water sources, protect forests and biodiversity in each biome;
b) Support the expansion of programs for the planting of native and fruit trees throughout the country, according to the biome.
c) Allocate the necessary resources for the construction of drinking water cisterns and production in all semiarid and needy regions.
d) Prevent the use of pesticides, which contaminate water and food and destroy biodiversity.
e) Organize the production of agroecological seeds in all territories.
f) Stimulate agroforestry as a way to guarantee diversity and abundance of food, combined with the multiplication of forests.

4. Decent living conditions in the countryside for all people

a) Ensure access for all families to the “My House, My Life” Program, for renovations and construction of housing in rural areas.
b) Ensure policies that allow youth to remain in the countryside with work, income and education.
c) Ensure that no more rural schools will be closed.
d) Strengthen the Fund for the Development of Basic Education in the municipalities and expand the National Program for Education in Agrarian Reform Areas, to serve the children of peasants at all levels of education.
e) Prevent domestic violence in the countryside that affects women, children, adolescents, the elderly and LGBT people and that is increasing with social distancing.
f) Expand and strengthen the Unified Health System throughout the country and in rural areas.

This emergency program requires immediate measures and the political will of governments to solve the problems of employment, income and food for all people. That is why everyone must contribute, at every level of government: federal, state, and local. This is an emergency program to confront problems immediately.

People’s Agrarian Reform is urgent and necessary to meet the needs of landless workers, to supply food to cities, especially the outskirts of cities and to guarantee a balanced relationship between human beings and nature.

We call on society, popular movements, trade unions, supporters, churches and sectors committed to the democratic struggle, to defend the urgency of People’s Agrarian Reform and a country that is just, without class privileges and social inequalities.

Brazil, April / May 2020