

It is our hope and desire that your organisation will follow in the footsteps of your late President Zephania Mothopeng who was unequivocal in his rejection of "NEGOTIATIONS" with the enemy. We hope your organisation, in honouring those of its members who have fallen in the course of the struggle for liberation, will distance itself from the jockeying that is going on presently in South Africa in the name of liberation and democracy. In this way, can the PAC expect to earn support and blessing of our people. Indeed, its strength as a progressive player in the political arena in our country lies just in this.

To do otherwise would be to throw away a golden opportunity and to promote reaction, entrench and perpetuate the status quo.

We hope finally you will continue to search for unity in our struggle. We welcome any genuine move in that direction. United, we can break the power of the oppressing ruling class and only then will political power pass into the hands of the masses, the workers and the peasants, the social base of our struggle. When that happens, our people will be in a position to "use their franchise to elect representatives to work in the Constituent Assembly (if they so choose) to set up the framework for a united, democratic, non-racial workers' republic.

OUR OPPRESSORS CANNOT DO THIS FOR US

Our priority is not to address ourselves to the ruling class – domestic and international but to organise, politicise, unite and motivate effectively the unfranchised masses."

by LIVINGSTONE MQOTSI

ON THE PASSING OF COMRADE ABDULLAH DESAI OF CAPE TOWN

This year witnessed the passing of Comrade Abdullah Desai of Cape Town. At his funeral we sent our tribute which was read out by the President of the New Unity Movement, Comrade Richard Dudley.

As we wish to share with our readers knowledge of this remarkable man, we reproduce the tribute below:

"To Family Members, Comrades and Friends of Comrade Abdullah Desai:

APDUSA, Natal, affiliated to the New Unity Movement, mourns with family members, comrades and friends the untimely death of Comrade Abdullah Desai.

We from Natal have had the honour of knowing Comrade Abdullah Desai only for the last few years of his life. In those few years he packed in so much of comradeship, warmth and generosity in our relationship that he became a very dear comrade to us.

His was a very lively mind. He was forever searching. His loves were books, articles, journals, tapes relating to the liberatory struggles both here and outside, of the present and of the past. He was par excellence the archivist for the non-Stalinist left in this country.

His generosity was amazing. At a time when people regarded their libraries as if they were Fort Knoxes, Comrade Abdullah parted with rare and precious literature without blinking an eyelid.

Politically, Comrade Abdullah was a loyal but not uncritical friend of the Unity Movement. His criticisms were never malicious. They were always helpful and constructive, the mark of a true friend.

He was a committed socialist. The intensity of his commitment was matched only by his loathing and hatred for Stalinism, especially the local variety. He was forever researching and providing ammunition in the unending fight against Stalinism.

His love for books and literature was not that of a selfish connoisseur. He read and studied political literature. He was, therefore, a reservoir of knowledge. One never left Comrade Abdullah after a visit without having learnt something interesting and useful.

One was always struck by his gentle nature even in heated political debate. His debating instrument was never the sledgehammer; it was the rapier, light and deadly.

In the past few years when renegades were preparing to switch political loyalty for personal and opportunistic reasons Comrade Abdullah remained steadfast to his principles. He never wavered in his commitment to the policy of Non-Collaboration. Hence his unconcealed contempt for the renegades and for the negotiators.

We will miss Comrade Abdullah sorely. Cape Town has certainly been diminished by his passing.

We salute Comrade Abdullah Desai!"