



APDUSA Views

March 1984

BIRTH OF APDUSA VIEWS

We proudly announce the birth of APDUSA VIEWS. The African People's Democratic Union of South Africa (APDUSA) Natal, a Unity Movement Organisation, felt the real need to present to the public views and opinions which are not to be found in daily and weekly newspapers most of which are owned, controlled or influenced by one or the other section of the oppressors.

APDUSA's basic stand is set out in its constitution:

"The democratic demands and aspirations of the oppressed workers and peasants shall be paramount in the orientation of APDUSA in both its short term and long term objectives."

Committed to this outlook, APDUSA VIEWS sets as its task to act as watchdog of the oppressed people. We intend to comment, to warn and to expose all those who act against the interest of the people. This duty we promise to carry out without fear or favour.

Today, the oppressed people are being bombarded with propaganda from many quarters. There are many who pose as friends of the people but who in truth are wolves in sheep's skins. Overnight, people are presented with ready made leaders, ranging from government created stooges to liberal and church created misleaders. Because of the massive press coverage and because of ready access to vast sums of money, such people are making a serious bid for the support of the oppressed.

We must learn to guard our support jealously. Support must not be given to the first person who comes asking for it. It is only after a careful examination of all relevant factors, history of the person or organisation, the principles and policies of such person or organisation,

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must support be considered. We must never allow ourselves to be used.

You are asked to regard APDUSA VIEWS as yours and therefore to feel free to use its columns to express your opinions.

As APDUSA's finances come only from its own members and supporters, most of whom are workers, peasants and students, we are unable to publish a newspaper as yet. At the same time we cannot wait until we have sufficient cash to publish a journal with glossy paper. Glossy paper, as we know, is no guarantee of the truth.

In offering you APDUSA VIEWS, we ask for your support. Ours is a humble, but serious contribution to the struggle.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

ELECTIONS UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION

After months of ducking and diving, the Government has finally announced something which it had decided upon months ago, namely, the calling of elections as against holding of a referendum under the new Constitution.

In the coming days ahead, there is going to be a great deal of political activity amongst the Indian and Coloured people with the Government and its stooges trying to get the Indian and Coloured people to participate in the elections. As against that current there will be the various segments of the liberatory movement which will call upon the people to boycott the elections and thereby lay claim to full equality and at the same time to demonstrate their allegiance to the millions of the African oppressed and exploited.

In calling for the total rejection of the new constitution by means of the boycott, we must know precisely why we boycott. Certain organisations have been using FEAR as a means to get people to reject the new Constitution. They say that if we do not boycott, the African people will attack the Indians.

We reject out of hand these ignoble tactics. We do not believe that people should be made to take any stand out of FEAR or INTIMIDATION. We leave that sort/....

sort of thing to the gangsters. We believe that the people should boycott the elections out of a proper understanding of the issues involved and from a full realisation of their duty as an oppressed people to other sectors of the oppressed.

To use the imaginary anger of the African people to dragoon the Indian and Coloured people is to use the despicable tactic of Swart Gevaar.

Our commitment is to create a bond, a unity, arising from common suffering, common goals, and a common love for liberation. Such a bond or such a unity can never be based on FEAR. Fear only divides. It destroys.

If we are to reject the New Constitution by means of the boycott, let us do so on the grounds that the new Constitution is the direct opposite of true democracy, viz, the right of all persons over the age of 18 years to elect and to be elected to the law making organs of the country. Let us also do so on the grounds that as oppressed people we are not prepared to form a block with the ruling class in order to oppress others.

UNIVERSITY OF NATAL - MEDICAL STUDENTS

The boycott of lectures by the Medical Students was precipitated by the refusal of the authorities of the University of Natal to recognise and appreciate the grievances of the students. Some of the students' grievances were the arbitrary implementation of new rules, changes in the curriculum, and the introduction of conditional passes. The students at first attempted to have discussions with the Medical Faculty Board. Although there were some meetings with the Student Representatives, the authorities adopted an uncompromising "take it or leave it" attitude and closed the University. Their high handed depostic action did not just end there. They also closed the residence, knowing full well that the majority of the students living at the student residence were from distant places. The ultimatum presented to the students when they re-registered, is another jackbo@t attitude adopted by the authorities .

These events highlight certain lessons for the oppressed

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students in South Africa :-

1. An academic boycott, while intended to achieve greater unity and political consciousness, can be of limited duration only.
2. A democratic system of education can only exist in a democratic society.
3. The lack of the full franchise allows the University authorities to adopt repressive measures as their authority is derived from the oppressor and is unchecked by democratic structures of a democratic society.
4. The system of education in South Africa is "oppression orientated" - be it at schools; at Ethnic Universities or at liberal "open" universities. The Black man's "place" in society must be ensured.

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Issued by:
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