

WHAT IS APDUSA?

**ISSUED BY P.M.BURG
APDUSA**

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The people of Pietermaritzburg, just as people all over the country, having heard something of APDUSA, are now asking: WHAT IS APDUSA? To meet this demand for information on APDUSA, we set out very briefly the nature and purpose of APDUSA.

APDUSA is the African Peoples' Democratic Union of Southern Africa.

By AFRICAN PEOPLES is meant all those people who are either born in Africa or who regard Africa as their home. It means those people who love Africa and the people in it and who strive for the progress, development and happiness of the people of Africa. APDUSA has no colour-bar and therefore Africans, Indians, Coloureds and Whites can become members.

By DEMOCRATIC UNION is meant the Unity of all people who dedicate themselves to the achievement of nothing less than full democracy as contained in the Ten Point Programme of the Non European Unity Movement to which APDUSA is affiliated.

By SOUTHERN AFRICA IS MEANT THE Southern portion of Africa which includes areas like the Protectorates and S.W. Africa. The boundaries separating S.Africa from these areas were not decided by the will of the majority but were imposed on the people by the white invaders. APDUSA states that only a free people through brotherly consultation can settle the boundary question.

AIMS OF APDUSA

Enshrined in the constitution of APDUSA and given a place of honour is the following clause:-

*"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.*

This standpoint of APDUSA flows from its firm and unshakeable belief that those people who through their sweat and labour build civilisation in the country must be allowed a fair share in the fruits of that civilisation. Since it is the toiling masses- workers and peasants – who create the civilisation, then they must have all the rights to enjoy the civilisation and to have a full say in the control of their lives and destinies.

¹ This document was published in 1963 - Editor

The democratic demands of the workers and peasants means the complete destruction of the present system which degrades abuses and oppresses the toiling masses of workers and peasants.

ERRORS TO BE AVOIDED

It is APDUSA'S belief that only the entire oppressed population, acting and thinking together, can achieve freedom. We reject as dishonest and roguish the claim by certain people that "A LEAQDER" or even half a dozen "Leaders" can achieve freedom. If we do not fight for our freedom, nobody else is going to. If we are not prepared to fight for our freedom, then we are not fit to enjoy that freedom.

Having studied the struggle of the people, we come to the conclusion that the many attempts in the past to defeat oppression failed because of two main reasons:-

- (i) People were led to fight this law or that without being told that no law can be defeated unless people have a full say in Parliament. It is Parliament which has at its disposal and for its use the might of the army, the Police force and the Law Courts to enforce these laws.**
- (ii) All the militant struggle of the people, no matter how heroic, has been swiftly crushed because these struggles were conducted in isolation and were confined to local areas.**

APDUSA declares that the oppressed people cannot and must no allow the recurrence of these errors. There is no time for that. The times we are living in at present demand the action of the entire Nation under the guidance and direction of the CENTRAL AUTHORITY.

CENTRAL AUTHORITY

The Central Authority is the National Executive of APDUSA. It is the CENTRAL AUTHORITY which will guide and direct the struggle in a proper and co-ordinated fashion. It is the CENTRAL AUTHORITY which will ensure that people don't rush into premature struggle or into struggle when the rest of the country is not consulted. It is the CENTRAL AUTHORITY which has its fingers on the pulse of the entire population thereby knowing when the time for action is at hand.

BUILD THE NATION

Whilst we get our direction and guidance from the CENTRAL AUTHORITY, our strength we will only get from ourselves who constitute the many millions of the country – the millions on whose backs the entire country rests. These millions we must get into the NATION of Southern Africa. Only a nation can measure up to the task of ensuring that the toiling masses

are adequately represented in Parliament. Only the NATION can decide when to fight, how to fight and with what to fight. Only the NATION can save the country from bloody violence which has become the pattern of life and which is to increase many folds in the immediate future. The building of the NATION is our HOPE. Without the NATION we are nothing; with the NATION we are everything.

APDUSA REPRESENTS THE NATION

If we accept the need for the CENTRAL AUTHORITY and the NATION, then APDUSA is our home. In APDUSA only will we find the representatives of the NATION from all parts of the country. In APDUSA only will we find an organisation behaving like a NATION and working in the interests of the NATION. In APDUSA only will we find a membership of workers, peasants, students and teachers., a membership of Africans, Indians, Coloureds and Whites – a membership on a footing of complete equality and most important of all, APDUSA has a PLAN for the attainment of liberation.

The only obstacle to this plan is the fact that the NATION is not built.

WILL WE WIN?

To those who have been in the struggle for years, this question never rises. To the new and the hesitant we say:

Victory is ours for the taking. It is in man's nature NEVER to allow oppression to continue indefinitely. Man has always fought against oppression of one kind or another. His defeats have merely inspired others to rise and destroy their system of oppression.

Today freedom is sweeping through the length and breadth of all the continents and nowhere is the spirit of freedom more dramatic and vital than on the continent of AFRICA. From the north the freedom movement has swept southwards so swiftly that today it is knocking on the borders of South Africa. Soon it will be hammering. It is this that makes the ruling classes shiver with fright and to give themselves "dutch" courage they pile on law after law. Their frantic law piling is but an indication of their fear and weakness. Those in power today are frightened little me, with little minds but with big nightmares.

HOW LONG?

The answer to this question can be answered only by ourselves because it depends on how much work we do for the NATION and how soon we are able to do the work. We repeat nobody else except ourselves can attain our freedom.

DUTIES.

1. **Join APDUSA and become an active organiser for Apdusa.**
2. **Read and understand APDUSA literature so that you are in a position to pass your knowledge to others.**
3. **Spread the message of APDUSA wherever you go- at your home, your place of work. Let APDUSA become a household word so that every man, woman and child knows the name of APDUSA.**
4. **Enrol as many people as possible.**
5. **We work for our bosses 8 hours a day; we sleep about 8 hours and the remaining hours belongs to us. From this time let us pledge 2 hours for the work of the NATION and FREEDOM.**

WHO CAN THEN SAY: FREEDOM WILL NOT BE OURS??

THE TEN POINT PROGRAMME

1. **THE FRANCHISE** i.e., the right of every man and woman over the age of 21 to elect and be elected to Parliament, Provincial Council and all other Divisional and Municipal Councils.

2. **COMPULSORY, FREE AND UNIFORM EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN** up to the age of 16, with free meals, free books and school equipment for the needy. This means the extension of all educational rights at present enjoyed by European children with the same access to higher education on equal terms.

3. **INVIOABILITY OF PERSON, OF ONE'S HOUSE AND PRIVACY**

This is the elementary Habeas Corpus right. The present state of helplessness of the Non-Europeans before the police is an outrage of the principles of democracy. No man should be molested by the police, nor his house be entered without a writ from the Magistrate. This same right to inviolability and privacy at present enjoyed by the Europeans should apply to all Non-Europeans. All rule by regulation should be abolished.

4. **FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS, MEETINGS & ASSOCIATION.** This point hardly needs explanation. It is the abolition of the Riotous Assemblies Act directed specifically against the Non-Europeans. It embodies the right to combine, to form and enter Trade Unions on the same basis as Europeans.

5.FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND OCCUPATION. This means the abolition of all Pass Laws and restriction of movement and travel within the Union, the right to live, to look for work, wherever one pleases. It means the same right to take up a profession or trade as enjoyed by Europeans.

6.FULL EQUALITY OF RIGHTS FOR ALL CITIZENS without distinction of race, colour and sex. This means the abolition of all discriminatory Colour Bar Laws.

7. REVISION OF THE LAND QUESTION in accordance with the above.

The relations of serfdom at present existing on the land must go, together with the Land Acts together with the restrictions upon acquiring land. A new division of the land in conformity with the existing rural population, living on the land and working the land, is the first task of a democratic State and Parliament.

8.REVISION OF THE CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CODE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE.

This means the abolition of feudal relations in the whole system of justice-police, magistrates, law-courts and prisons-whereby the punishment for the same crime is not the same, but is based upon the skin-colour of the offender. There must be complete equality of all citizens before the law, and the abolition of all punishment incompatible with human dignity.

9. REVISION OF THE SYSTEM OF TAXATION in accordance with the above.

IX. This means the abolition of the Poll Tax or any other tax applicable specifically to the Non-European or discriminating between Europeans and Non-Europeans. There should be one, single, progressive tax, and all indirect taxation that falls so heavily upon the poorer classes should be abolished.

10. REVISION OF LABOUR LEGISLATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO THE MINES AND AGRICULTURE.

This means specifically the revision of the Industrial Conciliation and Wage Acts,

- the elimination of all restrictions and distinctions between a European worker and a Non-European worker,
- equal pay for equal work,
- equal access to Apprenticeship and skilled labour. This means
- the liquidation of indentured labour and forcible recruitment,
- the full application of Factory Legislation to the mines and on the land. It means
- the abolition of the Masters and Servants Act and the establishment of complete equality between the seller and buyer of labour. It also means
- the abolition of payment in kind, and the fixing of a minimum wage for all labourers without distinction of race or colour.
