

OUR POSITION ON THE OCTOBER MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

In response to enquiries about our stand on the October Municipal Elections, we as a public organisation are duty-bound to respond in clear terms.

1. **APDUSA is an affiliate of the New Unity Movement.**
2. **The programme of the New Unity Movement is the Ten Point Programme. This programme is a list of minimum demands which are not negotiable. The acceptance of anything less would mean acceptance of the claim that we are less than human beings.**
3. **The first point of this programme is:-**

“The franchise, that is the right of every man and woman over the age of 18 to elect and be elected to a new democratic parliament and to all other levels of government, both regional and local.

This means the end of all political inferiority, of all communal or indirect representation. It means granting to all people of South Africa the same, universal equal, direct and secret ballot. The tri-cameral parliament and the system of dummy “homelands” parliaments must go. In their place a single, democratic parliament elected on the basis of a common franchise for all shall rule in the common interests of all South Africans. It means the liquidation of all location systems and the network of community councils, management committees and related bodies which enforce apartheid, oppression and exploitation at present.”
4. **Membership of the New Unity Movement and APDUSA is based on the acceptance of the whole of the Ten Point Programme.**
5. **Since the elections concern institutions and bodies which are racial in character and those for the Africans, Indians and Coloured people are without real power, these bodies run in direct conflict with the kind of municipal franchise envisaged in the Ten Point Programme.**
6. **For the reasons set out above, no organisation affiliated to the New Unity Movement and no member belonging to APDUSA and the New Unity Movement will participate in the elections either as candidate or voter.**

CONSENSUS POLITICS – COERCION

All recent claims by the present government that it believes in consensus politics, i.e. political decisions reached through agreement or dignified compromise, convinces nobody. The words of the government do not match its deeds.