



# THE APDUSAN

Vol. 25 No.1  
Aug. 2019

AFRICAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC UNION  
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

www.apdusa.org.za

*The Interests Of The Workers And Landless Peasants Shall Be Paramount*

## AMCU FACES DEREGISTRATION

The Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU), a major force of organised workers in South Africa's mining industry, might lose its registration status if it does not convene a proper national elective congress in 2019. The Registrar of Labour Relations recently published a notice to this effect in a government gazette.

AMCU held its most recent elective congress in January 2011, preceded by similar congresses in 2007 and 2004. Its Special National Congress of September 2013 did not focus on electing a new leadership. It should have had such a congress in 2018, eventually postponed to May 2019 but this one also failed to take place. Yet the constitution of AMCU dictates that elective congresses must take place at 5 yearly intervals and that its membership must be notified of such a congress no less than six months before it takes place (clause 22.3.3 of AMCU's constitution). Based on these facts and legal technicalities, the officialdom of the union is violating the union's constitution, thus creating a pretext for the Registrar's intervention into how AMCU operates. The Registrar has clearly lost trust in prominent AMCU leaders and questioned the sincerity of the union's National Executive Committee response letter (dated 3 April 2019) in which it promises to have the long-overdue congress in September 2019.

Solidarity with AMCU gathered momentum in parallel with opposition to the Registrar, centred on what some have called 'politically-motivated interference into unions not aligned to the governing ANC'. Opposing the Registrar's intervention into the internal affairs of an organisation of and for workers, however, is not enough. For this fiasco also raises a fundamental political question: should the Registrar (a bourgeois state agency), union bureaucrats or workers determine how trade unions operate?

When a trade union registers itself in terms of the Labour Relations Act, it agrees to defend the interests of its members within the boundaries of the law and the regulatory regime this law imposes on trade unions. With registration comes a police agent such as the Registrar; its function is hardwired into the Labour Relations Act. This confronts the trade union with a dilemma of how it

relates to the state. It inevitably draws the trade union into politics and exposes the popular myth of 'no politics in the trade unions' for what it is worth. Apolitical trade unionism is an absurdity!

AMCU's battle against deregistration has unmasked, once again, what is happening inside it and other unions. Through its prominence in the 2012 platinum belt strike, which culminated in the Marikana massacre, it grew into the majority union in the platinum and coal mining sectors. In the gold mines, it is the second largest body of unionised workers behind the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). AMCU's current membership is in the order of 250,000 workers.

In the context of the relative stagnation of trade union membership in South Africa, AMCU's numerical growth is inspiring and calls into question obituaries of this country's trade union movement. Its officialdom, however, has fallen victim to a strain of business unionism, a pernicious ideology that usually poisons working class organisations through self-seeking bureaucrats. Business unionists implant and nurture the principles of capitalist organisational practices and thinking inside trade unions. This insidious ideology is pervasive in capitalist societies and its logic is to strangle the progressive self-organisation of workers. Many union leaders succumb to it unknowingly. On the surface, in name and rituals, it is still a trade union. But without substantive content that advances workers' economic and socio-political interests.

AMCU leaders have entangled themselves in growing scandals that have plunged the union into one crisis after another. One of many cases turns around financial mismanagement and another on its association with 'rival' trade union federations. Alleged irregularities around the control over workers' retirement savings are rife. In 2016, ➔

### *Inside*

- ◆ **Failed Housing for the Poor.** P.2
- ◆ **Violence at Schools.** P.3
- ◆ **Spotlight on SA's Climate Crisis** P.4
- ◆ **Public Meeting on Energy Crisis in SA** P.5
- ◆ **and more**

➡ the union set up the Igula Umbrella Provident Fund, ostensibly to pay retirees their savings promptly. Squabbles among union bureaucrats, self-appointed trustees of the Igula fund, have effectively rendered the trust dysfunctional. The value of the Igula fund stands at R7 billion yet it has not submitted six-monthly financial statements to the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA). Is the Igula provident fund not another shady scheme, like trade union investment companies, for bureaucratic self-enrichment at the expense of workers?

After its launch in 2002, AMCU affiliated to the National Council of Trade Unions (NACTU), a federation originally aligned with black consciousness politics of the 1970s and 1980s. AMCU instantly became the largest NACTU affiliate by membership size. With this step, AMCU revealed more than its overt commitment to unity of unionised workers. For its decision to join forces under the NACTU umbrella has meant not affiliating to rival federations like the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the Confederation of South African Workers' Unions (CONSAWU), the Federation of Unions of South Africa (FEDUSA) or the South African Federation of Trade Unions (SAFTU). This decision on which federation to join has the overtones of ideological motives, a common trigger for splits and divisions among South Africa's weakened but undefeated trade union movement.

#### **Road Ahead For AMCU**

Festering tensions between the bureaucracy of the federation and its dominant affiliate grew more acute with the passage of time and escalating socio-political conflicts engulfing them. How the AMCU officialdom handled these tensions revealed profound inconsistencies and conflicts between their rhetoric and actions. In the 2014 national parliamentary elections, for instance, NACTU misled their affiliates into a campaign to vote for the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) – copying COSATU's disastrous 'vote ANC' routine. AMCU's leaders, on the other hand, upheld the

nonsense of apolitical trade unionism, a falsehood that politically disarms the working class who urgently needs its own principled political alternative to these ideologically bankrupt parties.

As NACTU was heading towards its elective conference in 2017, all the signs highlighted that the tensions with its smug affiliate had reached breaking point. AMCU had lost its status as an affiliate-in-good standing because it was not up to date with its mandatory dues to the federal body. Its pre-2016 debt in affiliation fees relegated AMCU to observer status at the conference, a ruling vehemently rejected by its leaders. The federation and its affiliate traded accusations in a brutal war of words. The collapse of this chaotic conference was the last act in AMCU's dramatic split from NACTU.

The failure of AMCU bureaucrats to convene national elective congresses for more than 8 years – the spark to its clash with the Registrar of Labour Relations – is a symptom of the mess engulfing trade unions. Without a doubt, these national elective congresses do more than the democratic renewal of the union's leadership. What the hard-earned lessons of the labour movement teach us is that the substance of every mass workers' assembly is as important as regularly convening them to combat the degeneration of the trade unions. Restricting these congresses to petty trade union technicalities and endorsing bureaucratic populists goes against the interests of workers. Congresses that serve the interests of workers ought to be processes and assemblies that involve all its dues-paying members directly in debates and decisions about their unions. It must strengthen rank-and-file democracy through concrete action instead of sideshows to parade celebrity bureaucrats. Bolstering the contributions of unions to the anti-capitalist political struggle of all exploited and oppressed people (including non-unionised and jobless workers) should be a priority of such assemblies. ●

## **Construction Industry And Government Fail To Build Houses For The Poor**

Bourgeois economists and social commentators have recently bemoaned the dismal state of the construction industry in South Africa. The big guns in this sector have posted huge losses and filed for liquidation and bankruptcy on an unprecedented scale. According to an *Independent Online Business Report* in African News Agency, 2019: "...South Africa's beleaguered construction industry faces a trio of major risks this year from the general elections,

*failing State Owned Enterprises and the Budget...*"

This sad state of affairs has huge implications for the working class with thousands of workers and their families who are now left unemployed and unable to make a living. Needless to say, this translates into various social ills such as increased crime, gangsterism, gender-based violence, homelessness, substance abuse and ➡

➡ a host of other atrocities caused by state sanctioned structural poverty and squalor.

The industry bosses also claim that large scale demand for the development of lucrative projects have declined considerably. One of the main reasons cited for this is the low level of investor confidence. In other words they are unable to run their private companies profitably and enrich their shareholders. A 2018 internet article by *KH Plant*, an industry based company, stated: *"Confidence in South Africa's construction industry plummeted to 17-year lows in 2017. Policy uncertainty, slow economic growth and an underperforming rand were red flags to investors."* This reflects the absurdity of the capitalist system and its misplaced priority of enriching the private individual at the cost of entire communities in dire need of housing. After twenty five years in power, the ANC-led government and other bourgeois parties have still not addressed the astronomically increasing housing backlog in the country! This fact is underlined in a 2018 *Fin24 news article* by Mayra Hartmann that states: *'...The housing backlog reportedly stands at 2.3 million and is growing by around 178 000 houses a year. Neither the public nor the formal private sector appears to be able to close this gap.'* This flies in the face of their grandiose promise of housing and security for all – a promise eloquently expressed in the Freedom Charter.

The irony of all of this is that there is a massive need for houses to be built and hence massive employment opportunities for thousands of workers in various sectors of the construction industry. This however, is not profitable for the bosses of the construction industry as most financial industries – both national and international – are opposed to large scale investment in the social development of especially developing countries such as South Africa. It poses too high a risk for a return on their investment. Structural Adjustment Programmes and austere fiscal policies focus strongly on substantial cuts in social expenditure by

governments and have thus become exclusionary measures by international monetary institutions to deny the labouring masses access to decent housing and other basic social rights. It is quite clear that the construction industry bosses and their financiers have no interest in serving the poor.

Meanwhile, the African National Congress (ANC) and the Democratic Alliance (DA) alike, either provide poor and inadequate housing as the housing backlog and RDP inferior quality housing reflects. A June 2019 internet article by *Cape Argus* reporter, Marvin Charles reveals that *'Shoddy construction of government subsidized houses in the province could delay projects indefinitely, adding to the housing crisis.'* And *'The government is using smaller construction companies after larger companies have lost their appetite for the government housing programme.'*

The DA has taken this a step further with their tin shanties and 'site and services' solution. More absurd are NGOs who are now employed to teach residents of squatter camps how to make these communities more livable! In addition, the DA has shown their bigotry by either economically excluding poor communities from leafy suburbs or by deliberate Apartheid spatial planning: planning geared towards evicting poor people from lucrative sites such as Salt River and Woodstock and throwing them in godforsaken dumps like Wolwe Rivier and Blikkiesdorp.

It is evident that the bourgeoisie and the entire government that support them have no interest in housing the poor or to see to their other human rights, unless it is profitable to them. The working class must fight independently and organise themselves for their freedom including the right to decent housing. It is only when we prioritise housing and other socio-economic needs as basic human rights of the working class, divorced from the vile profit motive within a socialist state, that we can be assured of decent housing and a comfortable living. ●

## VIOLENCE AT SCHOOLS – WHO IS TO BLAME?

The current spate of violence plaguing our schools that left learners and teachers seriously and often fatally injured, has shocked the entire nation. Frantic responses have emerged to stem the tide of this devastatingly destructive phenomenon. One teacher union – "The Educators Union of South Africa (EUSA)" – called for teachers to be armed at schools. The Education department called for greater parental involvement and according to the Gauteng Member of Executive Council for education, we need a police presence at schools.

In APDUSA we condemn in the strongest terms all forms of violence against both learners

and teachers. Given the current crisis of school violence, we urge for greatest caution against knee-jerk reactions, especially those offering counter-posing violent solutions, as these can lead to even greater problems with more casualties. The Capitalist state and its hangers-on want us to believe that the problems lie within gang sub-cultures and even the parents who fail to impart proper moral values to their children. Whilst on the surface this appears to be the case, a deeper analysis reveals something much more sinister. ➡

➡ It is quite interesting that most of the violence happen at schools in working class areas. These are heavily under-resourced communities who bear the brunt of a socio-economic system that deprive them of jobs, proper housing, proper municipal amenities, proper health care and a proper educational system, amongst other socio-economic calamities. Most of these communities have to eke out a living under the most deprived conditions of poverty and squalor. In sheer desperation, they become susceptible to the social ills that have come to shock us so much. The fact remains that schools are not islands on their own but part of broader communities. As such, schools *will* reflect the general culture prevalent in their communities with maybe an odd exception here or there. If that community culture is one of deprivation and violence, chances are highly likely that its schools will follow suit.

We as the working class do not have the luxury to theorise about the best solutions to the problem. We experience the violence first-hand at all our schools, coupled with extreme gang violence in the community. This is worsened by large scale unemployment, school drop-outs and inevitably, substance abuse as the most likely recourse for coping with the atrocities of daily survival. In this toxic environment, drug and human trafficking thrive and spill over into schools which serve as market places for both these

devious underworld industries. We are unequivocally opposed to the perpetrators of these vile acts of destruction in our communities. We do however not confine these perpetrators to the gang and broader criminal elements, but want to implicate emphatically all those who advance and benefitted from the socio-economic system that made South Africa the most unequal country in the world today! We blame the capitalists who oppress and exploit the poor working class in their quest to generate super profits. It is their system which denies our poor communities basic human rights and opportunities to develop fully as decent human beings. Our people are subjected daily to the worst kind of structural violence brought about by poverty in all its vile forms. For example, millions of tons of food are dumped annually to keep prices artificially high while the majority of poor people suffer untold misery and starvation. The same lack of concern is demonstrated for other social development endeavours affecting poor working communities. The capitalists do not say a word about this!

Only when we radically change society from only benefitting the few to one serving the interest of its labouring majority, shall we as the working class, know genuine peace and progress at schools. Until then, the struggle continues! ●

## SPOTLIGHT ON SOUTH AFRICA'S CLIMATE CRISES

Around mid-January 2019, the South African government hosted 2 high-profile gatherings about how to counter climate-related disasters. Both gatherings took place under the directives of the United Nations to implement its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Agenda 2030.

The first gathering, held in Cape Town, was a Ministerial Conference under the banner of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE). Recently appointed Environmental Affairs Minister, Nomvula Mokonyane, opened the PAGE conference, welcoming her guests and underscoring the significance of the gathering against the backdrop of the 2018 climate talks (COP 24) in Katowice, Poland. Minister Mokonyane also used the occasion to mention a few green economy projects of her own government to transition South Africa 'to a low carbon economy and climate resilient development path'.

The second gathering, held in Durban, was a lead author meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II, tasked with fine-tuning the scientific tools to measure global warming and countervailing actions. The IPCC operates under the joint leadership of the World Meteorological

Organisation (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Working Group II concentrates on 'Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability', scrutinising volumes of studies and statistics released on its theme since the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). These reports provide the scientific basis for agreements on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) among its 195 member states. Inputs of these scientists are crucial in determining the 'global warming tipping point' – preventing the average temperature of our planet to rise 1.5°C above the pre-industrial revolution average by 2050.

A few months before these UN gatherings in Cape Town and Durban, the host country published two key documents on its own climate crises. In addition to releasing the country's updated National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report (a task under the country's UNFCCC obligations), parliament also considered National Treasury's revised Carbon Tax Bill with its implementation date set for 1 June 2019.

Knowing the types and scale of toxic gases that contaminate the air, rivers, dams, oceans and soil is vital, as mounting and incontestable evidence demonstrates that these toxic ➡

➤ emissions are edging into a danger zone that threatens the existence of all life on our planet. South Africa's GHG Inventory Report, compiled by climate experts under the leadership of the Department of Environmental Affairs, confirms this escalating danger. Environmental pollution is worsening alongside droughts and storms that set new records.

GHG emissions soared by 20% over the 15 years (2000-2015) covered in the report! Energy generation (burning of fossil fuels) and waste (incineration and open waste burning) accounted for roughly 93% of this astounding rise in greenhouse gas pollution! Industrial and steel factories, mineral extraction (mining) with livestock farming, remain the big polluters, spilling toxic gases into the atmosphere on an unprecedented scale. Yet the authors of the report fail to derive a logical conclusion from the evidence confronting them: a fossil fuel-addicted model of concentrated wealth accumulation is

fuelling global warming and the resulting ecological devastation.

In the meanwhile, government is pressing ahead with finalising the country's Carbon Tax Bill, which has been in the works for almost a decade. This Bill promises to punish emitters involved in environmental pollution beyond carbon emission levels fixed in law. It includes lucrative rebates and subsidies for polluters who supposedly comply with the prescripts of the Bill, thus exposing green capitalist reformism as flawed and a fraud. The rebates and subsidies virtually nullify the expected tax that polluters will eventually pay! Moreover, the logic of capitalism will dictate how to reinvest carbon tax revenues in job creation and renewable energy schemes. As it stands, this Bill fosters the illusion that fiddling around with the amount of tax per unit of carbon emitted is a trustworthy weapon against capitalist environmental destruction. ●

## ***REPORT: PUBLIC MEETING ON ENERGY CRISIS IN SA***

The above meeting, organised jointly by APDUSA and the Bishop Lavis Action Community (BLAC), was held on 13 July in Bishop Lavis Township. It addressed the ever growing, critical issue of electricity provision for South Africans. The speaker, Frank van der Horst presented the meeting with invaluable statistics and political perspectives on the economic crisis in which ESKOM and its masters have dumped the country. Operating against the backdrop of the profit dealings in high level international finance capital, ESKOM has, over time, managed to accumulate enormous debt, currently standing at R450 billion. The speaker also explained the linkages between huge and well-connected banks like Deutsche Bank and the control, though countries' central banks, they exercise over corporations like ESKOM. We are daily bombarded with news reports of illegal practices associated with business deals, official malpractices, looting of state coffers etc.; all of which adds to the extremely poor operational state of ESKOM. It now wants to recover this debt through all manner of means; most importantly, by increasing charges for domestic users. For the poor majority in the country, these charges have become and are becoming increasingly impossible to pay.

Discussion in the meeting dealt with a range of related topics. The truth about the way an enterprise like ESKOM is managed is in many respects being hidden from ordinary citizens. In other respects its mismanagement is quite open and crude. Its planned breaking up is part and parcel of the privatisation agenda of bourgeois politicians and their private sector partners. The approach of the government regarding ensuring sufficient future energy supplies

is noted for its lack of forward planning, specifically the construction of new power plants. The dependence on and continued use of coal as a power source flies in the face of the logic of using a sustainable renewable energy mix. Relying on IPP (Independent Power Producers) to fill in the deficit in output volumes will primarily lead to the enrichment of a few capitalists. The suffering of the working class will only increase. The reality of a handful of billionaires with their government lackeys controlling access, use and gaining benefits from the natural resources of the country is one that we must resist in its totality. Besides ESKOM, the mayhem at other State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) like the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and South African Airways (SAA) simply adds to the rotten state of governance in the country. Public servants are also not assured of the security of their pensions, given the serious and concerning revelations emanating from the PIC (Public Investment Corporation) commission of inquiry.

Workers organised in the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (UMSA) and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) are already embroiled in a huge fight with ESKOM and the government. The retention of workers' jobs is the key issue being raised. However, fighting this issue on its own without linking it to a broader, co-ordinated fight against all manifestations of oppression and exploitation can/will only lead to divisions, disillusionment and defeat.

The meeting agreed that a useful and positive framework was established to further explore this important topic. It also resolved to tackle, in ➤

➔ future public meetings, related matters such as pre-paid meters, pollution caused by the burning of fossil fuels, the affordability of electricity, municipal mark-ups on the price of electricity etc. Importantly,

these issues have to be linked to broader social and political issues; aiming to achieve unity in struggle.

***Power to the people, not the capitalists!***

## RULING CLASS SPEAKS WITH FORKED TONGUE

The neo-liberal media, the official spokespersons of the ruling bourgeois class, have mastered the art of playing with words. They do this to deliberately deceive the working class and make their oppression appear bearable or somehow more manageable. There are countless examples of this. As the working class we need to be wary of this deception as it is usually the first step in exploiting and oppressing the working- and unemployed poor.

Over the past few years we have witnessed how the sting had cleverly been taken out of words such as *retrenchment*, *Department of Housing*, *squatter camps*, *South African Police Department*, etcetera. A closer look at these words reveal much more than just a name change.

### **Retrenchment**

Workers associate retrenchments with lost livelihoods, destitution and disgruntlement. The consequence of this is usually industrial action that often proves costly to the company bosses. To soften this blow, neo-liberalism has introduced the terms 'down-size' and 'outsource' to make such dire management decisions reflect as necessary company adjustments for greater profitability. Workers however, experience this as unemployment, causing poverty and other social ills.

### **Department of Housing and squatter camps**

Even government has taken a leaf from their neo-liberal masters in the art of deception. This is evident in the name changes they made to certain departments. The term 'Department of Housing' places too much emphasis on the issue of *housing*- a raw nerve for both government which has failed completely in providing adequate and decent housing, as well as the millions who are still homeless! Furthermore, the term 'human settlement' does not link with the specific issue of *housing* as a major government priority. The term 'human settlement' also makes provision for 'sites and services' (promoted feverishly by the Democratic Alliance) and places the onus of building *actual* houses in the hands of the poor communities. Likewise, the term 'squatter camp' has been replaced with the term 'informal settlement' to draw attention away from the poverty and squalor that accompany the former. Ironically, the poverty and squalor are caused by the ruling class through, amongst others, the implementation of a draconian anti-poor macro-economic policy. To the working class the lack of

decent housing, proper infrastructure and lack of service delivery reduce these informal settlements to nothing more than squatter camps!

Another department used to be known as the *South African Police Department*. Today they have transformed themselves into the *South African Police Service*. Not only does the term 'service' belie the pathetic service we get from this department, as the escalating crime statistics reveal, but it blinds the working class to the fact that the main purpose of the police is to protect the private property of the ruling class.

### **Creating access to opportunity**

These four words have become buzz-words in both the vocabulary of the ANC-led government and the opposition parties. To 'create access to an opportunity' sounds positive and can easily lead one to believe that a task has actually been done. Nothing could be further from the truth! For 25 years the working class has been bombarded with government *talking* about creating the opportunity to access meaningful employment and the opportunity to access decent housing. The reality however just proves the direct opposite. Nearly 10 million South Africans are currently unemployed and more are cautioned by the President to join their ranks (*eNCA report 2019 on Mapungubwe conference*). 'Creating the opportunity to access' housing is equally as deceptive as that of accessing employment opportunities. This fact is underlined in a 2018 *Fin24 news article* by Mayra Hartmann that states: '*...The housing backlog reportedly stands at 2.3 million and is growing by around 178 000 houses a year. Neither the public nor the formal private sector appears to be able to close this gap.*' These facts boil down to one simple truth – creating an opportunity to access meaningful employment and housing does NOT mean *actually employing* or *housing* anyone! It is just an empty promise.

### **Working class response**

The working class must fight independently and organise themselves for their freedom. Reality has proven that the ruling class only pays lip-service to its empty and deceptive election promises. It is only when we prioritise our socio-economic needs, through principled and programmatic struggle (divorced from the vile profit motive and within a socialist state) that we can be assured of a truly decent life for the working class. ●

# *LETTER*

## **BOSASA: CORPORATE GREED ABOVE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' (WORKERS') NEEDS**

The condemnatory revelations made at the Zondo Commission (The State Capture Enquiry), concerning the reckless financial decisions taken by the management of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), should not come as a surprise. These are with regard to the outsourcing of some of its Correctional Centres Kitchens (Catering Services), to the organisation Bosasa. The African National Congress (ANC), on coming to political power, adopted the previous regime's privatisation policy as their own. Unfortunately, it was an "economic stimulus" only to enrich a few black elites, closely associated with the ANC. This contradicted the grandiose ideals and aspirations espoused in the Freedom Charter and of course, the needs of previously disadvantaged communities.

The Bosasa project was implemented with a great loss to the workers of DCS. In effect, it was merely a confirmation of the ANC's goal to pursue the mandate to build the wealth of the black elite on the backbones of the workers, just as the wealth of apartheid was created. In the meantime, the workers had to surrender their rights and benefits, whilst submitting themselves to the desires of power hungry mongrels, running the department like mafia cheerleaders. Among the consequences, the main duty of the DCS (safe custody of inmates, their rehabilitation and their reintegration into their respective communities, etc.) was compromised, including the safety of Correctional Officials. This could only succeed with the cooperation of most of the unions organising workers in this sector. The Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (POPCRU) supported this managerial strategy, regardless of the negative impact it had on the workers, deceiving them into accepting these schemes of the ANC, as progressive and innovative. Since the Zondo revelations, high profile meetings and visits were organised between DCS management and ministry and the various affected centres. These meetings were aimed at the reintegration of those outsourced facilities to DCS. During the Bosasa operation, workers in

DCS were at all times still involved, but only in a supporting capacity.

Prior to this Bosasa scheme, all Correctional Services kitchen facilities were operated by DCS workers; without real difficulties, by qualified catering officials. Those subsequent meetings and visits from DCS management and ministry did not result in a successful reintegration of those facilities. Nor did the appointment of new staff. There was little commitment from them to comply with the constitutional mandate, amongst others, to create a safe and prosperous South Africa. Instead the ANC-appointed managers continued pursuing economic policies of impoverishment, with dire consequences for the workers; their exposure to corruptive activities; criminal cartels who run correctional facilities into the ground, inmates having access to things they are not entitled to, etc.

The reintegration of these facilities is once again subjected to the administrative discretion of those managers implicated at the Zondo Commission. The outcome of all this is failure to take appropriate remedial steps, to stop this unscrupulous waste of taxpayer's hard earned monies. Things are left to fail, because the current qualified officials are either not part of the ANC's affirmative action agenda while their skills are patent, but their qualifications not recognised.

The purpose of these failures seem to be two-fold; (1) The maintenance of the incapacity of these catering facilities will establish the need for Bosasa operations in DCS; and (2) then to ultimately avoid disciplinary action and criminal prosecution. There are also political implications, like the pursuing of the ANC's policies of impoverishment against the historically oppressed South Africans, in favour of corporate greed and lust. These policies are not intended to ultimately abolishing capitalism, but to redefine it in the context of a so-called democratic dispensation. It is also evident that the ANC and its allies are intensifying their assault on the working class by suppressing workers rising up against these unfair discriminating neo-liberal economic policies. ➡

➔ This is also done by declaring certain public sector, like DCS as essential services, without privileges and benefits.

It is time for the workers (Correctional Officials) to awaken from their sleep and stop tolerating this persistent oppression from the ANC and its allies who cultivate corporate greed and mismanagement of public resources by incompetent managers. We should unite against these suppressive forces by not submitting to them. We must demand equality and justice in our workplaces. We, as the

workers, should also demand the immediate suspension of all implicated managers, followed by the speedy institution of disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution. For too long have we relinquished our rights to a managerial corps that strip us of all our benefits and authority to operate our Correctional Facilities. We should advance the struggle for a socialist democracy, that is drastically needed for all South Africans.

*Vexed CS Worker*

## APDUSA

### *THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES*

Despite the gain of political rights for all, the compromise of 1992 has not fulfilled the democratic aspirations of the labouring majority and they continue to suffer in conditions of abject poverty and subjugation to the will of the rich who command the economic resources of the country. In the ongoing struggle we therefore demand:

- The convening of a democratically elected **Constituent Assembly**, charged with the task of drawing up a new constitution, governed by the interests of the oppressed and exploited working class and peasantry, based on the demand for full, unfettered political rights for all with majority rule in a unitary state, the removal of all artificially created regional political boundaries, the liquidation of all special minority rights and privileges which militate against the interests of the majority. The Constituent Assembly must have full powers to discharge these duties, untrammelled by any directions and constraints designed to serve self-interested minorities.
- A resolution of the **land question** in accordance with the needs of those who work and live off the land. This means the destruction of all existing tribal and feudal relations in the rural areas and the nationalisation of the land, without compensation. A new division of the land and its management, which excludes forced collectivisation, the payment of rent and the expropriation of small peasant farmers, must be undertaken by committees that are democratically elected by and answerable to the people.
- The **expropriation** of all major industries, banks and institutions of credit and their management by the state and representatives of the workers in the interests of the population as a whole.
- The revision of labour legislation for the liquidation of all discrimination against the worker. This also means:
- The **right to work**, which must be implemented both via the institution of necessary adjustments to the length of the working week to provide employment for all, without a reduction in wages, as well as by the institution of a progressive **public works program** with the full representation of the unemployed in its management.
- The fixing of a living **minimum wage** as well as a sliding scale to compensate for any price increases.
- The unconditional right to **strike** which includes the right of occupation of the workplace.
- Free and **compulsory education** for all up to matric with free books for the needy.
- Free **health services** for the needy.
- A single, progressive **tax system**, the abolition of vat and all indirect taxes that fall so heavily on the poor.
- The elected representatives of the people, at organisational level or in the local, regional or national political institutions of state, must be fully **accountable** to those who elect them and they must be fully bound by the demands and aspirations of the working class and its allies, the landless peasantry.

APDUSA calls for the self-organisation and united independent struggle of the labouring masses. We believe that the struggle can only advance decisively via the greatest ideological and organisational unity between the workers in the urban centres and the peasants in the rural areas under the leadership of the working class.

*The democratic demands and aspirations of the oppressed workers and peasants shall be paramount.*

Printed and published by the African People's Democratic Union of Southern Africa

Website: [www.apdusa.org.za](http://www.apdusa.org.za) Email: [apdusa@mail.org](mailto:apdusa@mail.org)