



APDUSA

AFRICAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC UNION
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Solidarity with Working Class Communities in Struggle

APDUSA hereby wishes to pledge its solidarity with all the people of South Africa – including Bishop Lavis - who are struggling for human rights and freedom from oppression and exploitation. We have heard all the praise for the 1996 liberal constitution that the ANC negotiated with the old ruling classes. We are saying that this constitution is an attack on the interests and aspirations of working people. Self-seeking and politically bankrupt leaders of the national liberation movement under the control of imperialism and their agencies, the IMF and World Bank, designed this constitution. Here are some examples of the failures of this so-called progressive constitution.

The health service is in tatters, because less money is being budgeted for public hospitals and people are dying due to poor delivery of this essential service. The Life Esidimeni tragedy is a case in point where services were outsourced to people who were not equipped to care for these patients.

The education system has virtually been destroyed, due to ill-considered plans, although billions of rand are pumped every year into dysfunctional institutions. Education is being privatised on a large scale. Institutions of learning are allowed to be run down, due to poor or non-maintenance. Our kids are drowning in pit latrines, while the so-called liberators' children are being educated in private schools.

The constitution enables individuals to become instant millionaires through tenders and corruption under the guise of so-called Black Economic Empowerment or Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment

that has benefitted only a small elite, while the majority of the workers and peasants are daily wallowing in misery.

Unemployment has skyrocketed, especially in the private sector and we are learning that the same will happen in the public sector without workers having a chance of re-entering formal employment at a living wage.

The spectre of violence on a national scale through gangsterism, gender violence and domestic violence is indicative of the despair that people are experiencing in their daily lives. These social ills are forced onto communities by a vicious capitalist system that oppresses and exploits them on a daily basis.

Municipal service delivery is in some places non-existent and in most places of a poor quality. We are currently experiencing electricity power cuts on a grand scale.

It is election time and all political parties are campaigning to hoodwink the working class and its allies to mandate them again to oppress and exploit the voters for the next five years. These bourgeois/capitalist parties all defend and promote this so-called progressive constitution which – as can be seen all around us – only serves the rich and powerful.

Working people, through their own organisations, can make progress by uniting their struggles for human rights under the minimum political demand for the convening of a Constituent Assembly. This democratically elected Assembly must be based on the demands and interests of the working class and peasantry.

Forward with independent struggle and self organisation!

Forward with unity in struggle!