



APDUSA VIEWS

No. 21

JUNE 1988

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. FRAUD OF SO-CALLED ECONOMIC REFORMS

2. DEFEND THE FIVE TEACHERS

3. FIGHT JULY 1988 RENT INCREASES!

4. TRICAM CIRCUS – MORE ENTERTAINMENT

5. LETTER TO EDITOR ON ZOLA BUDD

6. BRAVE DOCTORS

7. THE BLUNDERING EXPERT

8. APDUSA VIEWS ISSUE No 19 UNBANNED

THE FRAUD OF THE SO-CALLED ECONOMIC REFORMS OF P.WBOTH

(Based on a Statement to "The Leader")

INTRODUCTION

The so-called economic reforms announced by P.W. Botha during February 1988 is once again the case of tinkering with a minor rash and ignoring the deadly cancer which is destroying society.

"ECONOMIC REFORMS":

a) Freezing of salaries of Civil Servants:

The real problem with the civil service is its gargantuan size and its notorious inefficiency. Freezing of the salaries is going to resolve nothing. What is called for is drastic surgery, i.e. excising large layers of the civil service and making what remains work for the money given by way of salaries.

b) Abolition of the GST:

This claim is completely misleading. The ultimate consumer is not going to be spared from paying sales tax. Whether it is called V AT or Sales Tax, it makes no difference to the consumer. The so-called abolition of the Sales Tax is in truth a more efficient way to collect the Tax. Its only purpose is to ensure that the middle person does not pocket the Sales Tax. There is no relief for the poor.

c) Privitisation:

This is the latest capitalist buzz-word. It means moving towards unchecked and unbridled capitalism. In the present context, it means the sale of public property or assets to giant monopolies. The government is going to sell assets which have already been paid for by the public through taxes and other charges. Its main purpose is to raise CASH.

The public will now have to pay for the use of assets it once owned. The giant monopolies which exist only for the sake of giant profits will want quick and high returns for their massive investments. And we will have to pay for that.

And the purchase price? The government will do what it has always done use the money for the costly survival of apartheid.

The economic problems of this country stem mainly from the system of apartheid and the ruthless exploitation of workers made possible by that system. The oppressed are made to pay for their own oppression. Let us give a single example.

In South Africa, including the bantustans, there are 14 Ministers of Health. It is estimated that in the health services alone, about ONE THOUSAND MILLION RAND is wasted because of the separate health services.

CONCLUSION:

If the Government is serious about stopping wastage and controlling inflation, then let the politicians take a sizeable cut in their own salaries; abolish the Tricameral system, dismantle the bantustans, "independent" or otherwise,

imprison all those rogues who man the bantustans; make peace with the neighbours and thereby chop the multi-billion military budget.

If all these happen, then we will start believing that the government is serious about economic reform.

But as we all know that it is an impossible IF.

#####

DEFEND THE FIVE TEACHERS

APDUSA salutes the five courageous teachers who have spoken out against the tyrannical practices of the shameless quislings who control Indian Education.

What these fearless five have done is to articulate the frustration and anger felt by the general body of teachers. It would be difficult to deny that the sell outs in the short space of three years have reduced the state of education to a shambles.

Morale among the teachers has reached an all-time low; teacher-pupil ratio is unacceptably high; the teaching load has increased; teachers are constantly harassed through supervision by the members of the management staff and panel inspection by teams of subject advisers; students who have completed their degrees and diplomas are without jobs; teacher training institutions have closed and the two that are in operation have drastically reduced their enrolment.

It is therefore ironical that these five brave individuals are charged for "bringing Indian education into disrepute". Such an allegation is indicative of the arrogance of the officials who (mis) manage education. We assert, without fear of contradiction, that it is these quislings and the sellouts who should make amends for their crimes against the teaching profession.

The five teachers, fully aware of the consequences of their action and fully aware of the "jackboot" method that the Department employs to deal with dissension, had the courage of their conviction to stand up and be counted. In so doing we believe they spoke on behalf of the vast majority of oppressed teachers.

It is now incumbent on every member of the public, every teacher, every student, every branch of the Teachers' Association to rally to the aid of the five valiant men and women.

We must, all of us, expose the treacherous and reactionary role of the Indian Department of Education. Those who have knowledge of nepotism, of favouritism, of rule bending and manipulation must disclose such malpractices to the public by whatever means available (eg. by writing to the press; by issuing pamphlets) so the villains are exposed.

This is the least we can do for the brave five. If not, we will be in default and unwillingly become part of the machinery to silence the voice of resistance.

#####

FIGHT THE JULY 1988 RENT INCREASES!

A number of townships around Durban are faced with massive rent hikes as from July 1988. Responding from instructions from the Houses of Parliament to local authorities, the Durban City Council has "surveyed" incomes, "re-assessed" rentals and presented the increases as if the more than 15 000 tenants have a choice in the entire process.

A warning must be sounded as the amounts payable presented are merely the rentals and excludes electricity, water, rates and general lighting costs. It is only a matter of time before these costs increase as well. The cost of both water and electricity has increased at least twice each over the past two years.

What about medical costs, transport, food and clothing? As from 1 April 1988, even pensioners and grantees have had to pay for treatment at hospitals and clinics run by the Natal Provincial Administration. The Phoenix Community Health Centre, built at a cost of more than R5 million, has proved to be precious little else besides a showpiece under the administration of the House of Delegates.

What is clear, however, is that the respective State Authorities deem it fit to increase their income by breaking the backs of those who already bear much of the brunt of economic exploitation and political oppression. The hardest hit workers are exploited as producers and together with their families are further exploited as consumers when they return home.

Rents are a particularly sensitive issue in townships throughout the country. Recall the millions in lost revenue to State coffers because entire communities resisted such increases. Rents should be affordable and people should have the right to accommodation, which is of a quality they should also have a right to choose.

Increases at a time when there is a freeze on wages, without a basic minimum living wage for all workers, are an insult the exploited and oppressed must take full note of.

It is no accident that the ruling class behaves in this fashion. It is part and parcel of systematic oppression and exploitation country-wide. It is time that all those struggling under the yoke of these twin evils, stand together in organisations related to all aspects of our lives - trade unions, civic and student organisations, cultural and political organisations. Our freedom from all these insults that flow from the South African system lies only in our solidarity with all those across the nation living under the same conditions.

We must organise ourselves to be able to meet with the many, many challenges of the future, before any true liberation can be possible. We must be aware of our pivotal collective role in society and begin to take control of all the different aspects of our lives, in order to transform society. We must begin to think seriously about what is to be done with what we produce. We must have the right to choose people who can be accountable to us over how public funds are collected and distributed.

A LUTA CONTINUA! !

MORE ENTERTAINMENT FROM THE TRICAM CIRCUS

The clowns are at it again. On the 5th May 1988, 11 members of the ruling National People's (Sic!) Party resigned and formed a coalition with the opposition in the "Indian" House of Delegates to form a People's (Sic!) Party of South Africa.

The combined opposition which is now in the majority in the H.O.D. has called for Rajbansi's resignation. He refused to resign saying anything is possible in the H.O.D.. He is reported to have said that he could regain a majority "by dangling carrots" and has made this offer to the other members of the H.O.D. "Bring another man with you and you have a job".

Serious allegations of corruption, irregularity and dishonesty have been levelled at Rajbansi and his administration.

A motion calling for Rajbansi's resignation as Chairman of the Minister's Council was passed by 24 votes to 17 but Rajbansi has again refused. The deadlock has still not been resolved and is awaiting the intervention of Bass P.W. Botha.

The buffoonery in the H.O.D. once again demonstrates that the tricameral system is no substitute for a democratic unitary system of government in a unitary state.

#####

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: ZOLA BUDD

Dear Sir,

The Newspapers have again given extensive news coverage to Zola Budd. The News Media has been attempting to invite sympathy and compassion for the action taken against this South African athlete from Bloemfontein who became a British subject.

It must be remembered that Zola Budd has lived and thrived on the fruits of apartheid. Hence Miss Budd has refused to denounce apartheid. Her selfish opportunism has caught up with her, and it does not warrant any sympathy or understanding from the oppressed. She is now back in South Africa. She is reported as saying that she will not run under British colours again and that her immediate plan is to enrol at the University of Orange Free State next year to study languages.

Margaret Thatcher who at all times supported Zola Budd and who recently came up with an emotional outburst in the British Parliament because of the action against Zola Budd should take note.

Ironically Zola Budd is a victim of apartheid.

"Oppressed Athlete" Durban

BRAVE DOCTORS

The appalling conditions at the Baragwanath Hospital which caters for black people have been exposed by a band of brave and dedicated doctors who work in that Hospital. In acting as they did, these doctors were upholding the highest and noblest tradition of their profession. The doctors concerned publicly stood up in defence of their patients and criticised the Hospital Administration for allowing the shocking conditions existing in the largest hospital in Southern Africa.

Instead of commending and congratulating the doctors for their vigilance and concern, the Hospital Authorities demanded an apology from these doctors and made threats of disciplinary action against them. Under pressure, some of the doctors whose moral calibre is suspect sent in apologies. How these weaklings are going to make peace with their conscience will provide entertaining gymnastics.

Others, however, stood their ground and flatly refused to apologise for speaking the truth. To these brave doctors we say: BRAVO! !

Who but an arrogant and guilty bureaucracy can make such a ludicrous demand? If there is anything worse than an arrogant bureaucracy, it is Herrenvolkist (Master racist) bureaucracy. Truth is, perhaps, our most precious gift. It must be defended.

#####

DO YOU KNOW THAT:-

Donkeys like carrots

H.O.D. does not stand for House of Donkeys.

#####

THE BLUNDERING EXPERT

In APDUSA VIEWS of May 1986, we warned that the mere abolition of the dompas did not mean that INFLUX CONTROL would also vanish. We said then that the ruling class would use other methods to prevent the African people from coming into the urban areas in order to seek employment and to escape the starvation in the bantustans.

We took this stand in the face of blasts of loud "hurrahs" from the press of the liberal bourgeoisie which greeted the abolition of the dompas. Professor Nic Olivier, the so-called constitutional expert of the Progressive Federal Party (PFP) praised the "non-racial provision for control of illegal squatting". What this "expert" was saying in effect was the laws against illegal squatting would no longer apply to the African people only. It would apply with equal force against the Whites, Indian and Coloured people. Hence his jubilation! The "expert", however, failed to mention one important fact that "illegal squatting" was not something the Whites, Indian and Coloured people engage in. It is only

the African people, the most oppressed and exploited who have no place in the land of their forefathers and the country of their birth. It is they who driven by starvation and landlessness to occupy any vacant land from which they are not immediately driven off by the shotgun and the sjambok.

We now learn that the government intends passing a law which will render an "illegal" squatter liable to a fine of R 10 000 or five years imprisonment. This is the beginning of yet another phase of great suffering for the African people. The starving person who has no home or livelihood and who has left behind a starving family will never be able to pay the fine of R 10 000 not even if he is to have ten lives.

In view of the heavy penalties, people can be hardly blamed if they were to yearn for the return of the pass laws. At least with those laws, it meant jail for days or weeks.

In response to this proposed law, our "expert" pops up again. This time Professor Olivier cannot prettify "illegal" squatting by calling it "non-racial". Now he says:

"It is a retrogressive step in the worst possible way and it gives lie to the Government's policy of orderly urbanisation spelt out in the white paper of two years ago scrapping influx control." (Daily News 26 March 1988).

Yes, it does give lie to the Government's pronouncements not only in 1986 but from time immemorial. But it also gives lie to the praise showered by Professor Olivier when the fraud of the abolition of influx control was announced.

With "Experts" like Professor Olivier working for the PFP, it is not surprising that the PFP is falling to pieces.

UNBANNING OF "APDUSA VIEWS" No 19 - NOVEMBER 1987

We hereby announce that Issue No. 19 of "APDUSA VIEWS" dated November 1987 had been banned by the Committee of Publications in December 1987.

Since the subject matter of that issue, namely,

IN DEFENCE OF THE FREEDOM OF:-

*Thought and Conscience *Speech and Press *Organising and Association *Meetings and Assembly

was considered by us to be of vital importance to our struggle, we decided to appeal against the banning.

Happily, the outcome of the appeal was in our favour. We believe that the time, trouble and the expense was worth the result.

This means that that issue of "APDUSA VIEWS No 19 is no longer banned for distribution. Should any of our readers require copies of that issue, whether in small or large quantities, please write to us.

Editorial Board