

AFRICAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC UNION
of SOUTHERN AFRICA (A.P.D.U.S.A.)

DRAFT CONSTITUTION

1. NAME: The organisation shall be called the AFRICAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC UNION of SOUTHERN AFRICA (A.P.D.U.S.A.)
2. AIMS AND OBJECTS: The aims and objects of the A.P.D.U.S.A. shall be:
 - (a) To organise, and enrol as members, people on the basis of the policy and programme herein set forth, and for the achievement of these objectives;
 - (b) To spread political education amongst members of the A.P.D.U.S.A. and the public generally by means of meetings, mass rallies and demonstrations, lectures and publications, for the achievement of these objectives;
 - (c) To struggle for the liquidation of the National Oppression of the oppressed people in Southern Africa, that is, the removal of all the disabilities and restrictions based on grounds of race and colour, and the acquisition by the Whole Nation of those democratic rights at present enjoyed by only a small section of the population, namely the white people;
 - (d) To achieve the greatest ideological and organisational unity amongst the oppressed people - between the workers in the urban centres and the peasants and workers in the rural areas;
 - (e) To affiliate to the Non-European Unity Movement in order to give form and substance to these objectives and to build the unity of the oppressed in both town and country;
 - (f) To form Branches of the A.P.D.U.S.A. wherever the Central Executive deems necessary, in order to build and extend the A.P.D.U.S.A. and to assist in the formation of local Unity Committees of the Non-European Unity Movement.
3. PROGRAMME AND POLICY:
 - (a) The Programme of the A.P.D.U.S.A. shall be the 10-Point Programme of the Non-European Unity Movement as laid down by the founding Conference of the N.E.U.M. in December, 1943.
 - (b) The policy of the A.P.D.U.S.A. shall be laid down by the National Conference and shall be consistent with the policy of non-collaboration as laid down by the Conferences of the Non-European Unity Movement; the weapon of the boycott shall be the means whereby, in the main, this policy shall be implemented.
 - (c) The democratic demands and aspirations of the oppressed workers and peasants shall be paramount in the orientation of the A.P.D.U.S.A. in both its short term and its long term objectives.
4. OFFICERS:
 - (a) The Officers of the A.P.D.U.S.A. shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a General Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Publications Officer.
 - (b) The Officers shall be elected by the National Conference and shall hold office until the rise of the next succeeding conference, when they may stand for re-election.
 - (c) Bona fide delegates attending the Conference shall elect the officers by ordinary majority vote procedure.
 - (d) When an official position becomes vacant the Central Executive shall fill the vacancy; and the official thus elected shall hold an acting position until the rise of the next succeeding conference.

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- (a) All the officers, together with five ordinary members and the representatives of the duly established Provincial Executives shall constitute the Central Executive Committee of the organisation; the five ordinary members shall be elected in the same manner as the officers, and the representatives of Provincial Executives shall be elected by and from amongst the members of the said Provincial Executive.
- (b) The representatives of the Provincial Executives on the Central Executive shall be elected annually in the following manner:-
 - (i) Two representatives shall be elected by every Provincial Executive;
 - (ii) Additional representatives shall be elected where the total membership of the Branches comprising the Province exceeds 1,000 when one additional representative shall be elected for every 500 members in excess of 1,000, provided that in no case shall any Provincial Executive be entitled to elect more than five (5) such representatives to the Central Executive.
- (c) A quorum at a Central Executive meeting shall at no time be less than one-third of the full membership of the Executive; provided too that at least two officers shall be present.
- (d) The Central Executive shall have power to implement conference decisions, to carry out the affairs of the A.P.D.U.S.A. in pursuance of the aims and objects, and to frame regulations not inconsistent with this Constitution.
- (e) The Central Executive shall meet from time to time when summoned by the President, but in any event not less than once in every six months.

6. MEMBERSHIP:

- (a) Membership shall be open to all persons over the age of eighteen years who subscribe to the aims and objects of the A.P.D.U.S.A. and accept its programme and policy.
- (b) The membership of any proposed member shall be subject to acceptance by the Central Executive Committee.
- (c) Any person who in any way wilfully collaborates with herrenvolk or undemocratic institutions; or is in any way wilfully associated with herrenvolk or undemocratic activities; or does not subscribe to the aims and objects, and undermines the programme and policy of the A.P.D.U.S.A. shall be ineligible for membership or, if he is a member, shall be removed from membership by the Central Executive Committee.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS:

- (a) Every member shall pay a subscription of 25 cents (2/6d) upon registration and an annual subscription of 25 cents.
- (b) Annual subscriptions are due and payable on 1st January of each and every year, but members who join the A.P.D.U.S.A. during the month of December shall not be liable for the annual subscription fee for the ensuing year.
- (c) All subscriptions are payable to the General Secretary, who shall issue a receipt for the amount and a Registration Card to the member in compliance.
- (d) All subscriptions together with all other funds raised in any manner whatsoever by any branch shall be the property of, and shall vest immediately in, the Central Executive who may, in its sole discretion, authorise any branch to use such funds on such conditions as it may deem fit to impose.
- (e) All monies collected or received by the Central Executive or any branch shall be deposited in a banking account, which shall be opened in the name of the organisation, within forty-eight hours of its receipt and not later than the first business day after its receipt, unless special circumstances make it impossible to do so, in which event it shall be so deposited at the first reasonable opportunity.

8. PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVES:

- (a) There shall be established for the several provinces of the Union of South Africa the following Provincial Executive committees:
- (i) The Western Cape: being the area up to and including Knysna, De Aar, Kimberley, Mafeking, Springbok;
 - (ii) The Eastern Cape;
 - (iii) The Transvaal;
 - (iv) Natal;
 - (v) The Orange Free State;
 - (vi) Any such other area or part of an area as the Central Executive may deem fit to declare to have the status of a provincial executive.
- (b) Election of Provincial Executives: The several provincial executives shall be elected annually in the following manner:
- (i) All the duly accredited branches in each provincial area shall be entitled to be represented on such provincial executives in the following manner:
Each accredited branch having a minimum of 50 members, shall be entitled to one (1) representative on the provincial executive, provided that where the membership of such branch shall exceed five hundred (500) then it shall be entitled to one (1) additional representative on such executive for every two hundred and fifty (250) members in excess of five hundred (500) and provided further that in no case shall any branch be entitled to elect more than five (5) such representatives to the provincial executive, and subject to the condition that no such representative shall be elected to the said provincial executive unless he is, at the time of his election, a member in good standing of the executive of the said branch which elects him.
 - (ii) All such representatives shall comprise the Provincial Executive, who shall, out of their own number, elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer.
- (c) Functions of Provincial Executives: The functions of the Provincial Executives shall be to co-ordinate and direct the functions and duties of all branches in such province, and to carry out all duties assigned to it by the Central Executive.
- (d) Powers of Provincial Executives: The Provincial Executives shall have the powers to carry out all decisions and policies of the Central Executive, to enforce any disciplinary measure, and to administer and control such funds as may from time to time be assigned to it, on such conditions as the Central Executive in its discretion may determine.

9. BRANCHES:

- (a) The right to establish, recognise or disestablish Branches of the A.P.D.U.S.A. shall vest in the Central Executive.
- (b) No person shall use the name of the A.P.D.U.S.A., nor establish a Branch of the A.P.D.U.S.A. unless he has been given the permission of the Central Executive to do so; nor shall any persons continue to use the name of the A.P.D.U.S.A. nor continue as officers of a Branch if the Central Executive has disestablished such Branch or specifically disavowed such persons using the name of the A.P.D.U.S.A.
- (c) When a Branch of the A.P.D.U.S.A. has been disestablished all the property of the Branch shall forthwith be returned by the persons concerned to the Central Executive, in whom all rights of possession of Branch properties shall at all times vest.

10. CONFERENCES:

- (a) The Central Executive shall have the power to summon Regional and National Conferences of the A.P.D.U.S.A. at a time and place convenient for the general membership.
- (b) All branches shall be entitled to be represented at all conferences, regional or National, called by the Central Executive, and shall be entitled to representation at such conferences on the same basis and in the same proportions as provided for in Clause 8 (b) (i) of this Constitution. Such representatives shall be the delegates of such branch to such conference.
- (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause (10) (b), above, all members of all branches in good standing shall be entitled to attend all national conferences of the organisation and to take part in all deliberations at such conferences, provided however that only delegates shall be entitled to vote on any matter requiring voting at such conferences.
- (d) The National Conference of the organisation shall be the supreme policy-making body of the organisation.
- (e) The business at Regional Conferences shall be such as is determined by the Central Executive.
- (f) The business at the National Conference shall include:-
 - (i) An Address by the President;
 - (ii) A Report of the Central Executive Committee;
 - (iii) An audited Financial Statement;
 - (iv) The election of Officers and the additional Executive members;
 - (v) Changes and additions to the Constitution, if any;
 - (vi) Any other matter as the Central Executive may determine.

11. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

- (a) The Central Executive shall be empowered to transact its financial business through a recognised commercial bank; any two of the following Officers shall be empowered to transact such business: President, General Secretary, Treasurer.
- (b) The Central Executive may levy members or Branches and raise funds by other means in order to finance the running of the A.P.D.U.S.A.
- (c) The Central Executive shall submit the books of the A.P.D.U.S.A. annually to two examiners who shall be elected by the Executive from amongst the general membership; members of the Executive shall be ineligible as examiners.
- (d) The financial year of the A.P.D.U.S.A. shall end on 30th November.
- (e) Amendments to the Constitution: Notices of changes and additions to the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the General Secretary by Branches or members; such notices shall reach the Central Executive at least one month before the National Conference; all such changes and additions shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present at the time of voting on such amendments in order to become effective.