



New Unity Movement

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We Fight Ideas with Ideas

TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN COMRADE - Vice President of the NUM, Goba Ndhlovu

It was with the deepest sadness that the members of the New Unity Movement learnt of the passing away of our vice president comrade Goba Ndhlovu on 14 October 2021 at the age of 83 years. We extend our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to his wife, Ruth, his two sons, Mojalefa and Mduduzi, his daughter Boniwe and their families. We wish them comfort and strength at this time.

Comrade Goba was a well-known journalist and political activist. His activism was based on sound political principles and a steadfast belief in the unity and equality of humankind. He sharpened his political ideas in the Society of Young Africa (SOYA) into which he was recruited in 1952 whilst at university. The SOYA, which had been formed in 1951, was an affiliate

of the Non-European Unity Movement (NEUM) which was formed in 1943. This was the beginning of his becoming a lifelong stalwart adherent of the principles and policies of the Unity Movement.

Throughout his life he showed unwavering dedication and commitment to the Unity Movement's Ten Point Programme and the policies of Non-Racialism, Non-



Cde Goba Ndhlovu addressing Conference in 2015

Collaboration and Anti-Imperialism.

This commitment led to his playing a leading role, after the dark, oppressive and brutal years of the sixties and seventies, in the formation of the New Unity Movement (NUM) in 1985. Cde Goba has been a leading member of our Gauteng Branch since its formation and also served as a

member of the National Executive Committee on numerous occasions before being elected as our vice president in 2019.

As a true stalwart of the Unity Movement, he devoted the greater part of his life to the service of the oppressed and exploited people of this country. Cde Goba believed in putting into practice what he learnt as a life-long political

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scholar for the benefit of the oppressed and exploited people of this country.

During the course of his involvement in the struggle he acquired a number of academic qualifications which helped him in the prosecution of the various roles that he played.

He acquired the following qualifications: A Journalism certificate from the Premier School in London, a General Certificate in Education from the university of London, a certificate in Trade Union

studies from Cornell university in New York, a BA degree from UNISA, a certificate in Industrial Relations from Wits university and a National Diploma in Law from the former Rand Afrikaans University.

He was a well-known journalist and worked at the *World* newspaper until it was banned by the Apartheid government in 1977 and subsequently also at the *Sowetan* amongst others.

Apart from his work as a journalist he was well known for his involvement in a number of other pursuits.

Firstly, as a civic activist who in 1979 became the founding chairperson of the Tembisa Civic Association (TCA) where he fought many battles with the Apartheid authorities for amenities, infrastructure and service delivery in Tembisa and surrounding areas. However his political allegiance to the principles and policies of the NEUM brought him into conflict with certain members of the civic who wanted the TCA to join the UDF after it was formed in 1983. When this attempt failed his detractors formed the rival Tembisa Residents Association

Secondly, as a trade union activist in the print media he was the Chairman of the Southern Transvaal Branch of the Writers' Association of South Africa and he played a leading role in the formation of the Media Workers Association of South Africa (MWASA) where he served as president. In addition he served as the General and Publicity secretary of the Food, Farming, Beverage and Allied Union

Thirdly, Comrade Goba served as the information officer of the South African Council of Churches (SACC). In this position he was the editor of two SACC publications *Ecunews* and *Kairos* from 1979 until 1982.

Fourthly, his interest in sport saw him become the president of the Tembisa Football Association. He later, in 1989, went on to become the president of the South African National Football



Cde Goba with Cde Mda at 2013 Conference

Association (SANFA). In this capacity he was instrumental in seeking its affiliation to the South African Council on Sport (SACOS) rather than joining the National Sports Congress which was created by the ANC to supplant SACOS as the Sports Wing of the Liberatory movement.

Inevitably, Cde Goba's struggles in the trenches of civil activism, made him a

thorn in the side of the Apartheid regime of the time. He was detained under the draconian State of Emergency regulations of 1985 in the Johannesburg Central Prison. On the night of his arrest, Cde Goba's wife, Ruth, was also arrested and later released.

Finally, his continued interest and enthusiasm for tackling the challenges facing the oppressed masses of this country, even at an advanced age, remain an inspiration and make us aware that the struggle must continue. The majority of the people still live in poverty in a country which has the greatest inequality and highest unemployment rate in the world.

His passing has left the New Unity Movement with a profound sense of loss, for he was highly regarded and respected, not only for his quiet, unassuming character, but also for the forceful manner in which he expressed himself in propounding his own point of view in debate.

Comrade Goba shared in our vision of rebuilding a movement for the liberation of the toiling masses of this country. May his legacy of lifelong dedication and commitment to the struggle, inspire us to build a Movement for Socialism based upon our Ten Point Programme of Transitional Demands and on our policies of Non-Racialism, Non Collaboration Anti-Imperialism and Anti-Capitalism. In short, the building of a true People's Democracy.

Basil Brown
(President)

THE ROLE OF TEACHERS IN THE LIBERATORY MOVEMENT

Nowhere in the world have teachers organisations played such a significant role in the struggle of a people as the Cape African Teachers' Association (CATA) and the Teachers' League of South Africa (TLSA). In the late thirties, teachers had established or joined progressive peoples organisations such as the Lenin Club, the Spartacus League, the Educational Fellowships as well as the Johannesburg-based Progressive Forum. These discussion groups burst onto the political scene after the 1936 promulgation of the extension of the Land Acts. The evisceration of political rights of the oppressed at the time gave impetus to the struggle by the progressive teachers and activists.

Robert Grendon (1867–1949)



Robert Grendon was a teacher, a poet, a prolific writer who lived from 1867 to 1949. His sharp mind and propensity to write and speak his mind landed him in hot water from time to time.

The South African Coloured Rugby Football Union was established by Robert Grendon as its first president. Grendon was respected as he was also actively involved in the political and social affairs of the communities. Grendon not only established national rugby but also the Griqualand West Cricket and Rugby Unions. Furthermore, Grendon also assisted in the establishment of the Western Province Cricket Board. A multi-talented person, Grendon played and was also involved in the administration of soccer, athletics and cycling.

- ♦ He was secretary of the Griqualand West Agitation Committee and was an outspoken critic of the racist and discriminatory franchise in the then 'colony'.
- ♦ He established a newspaper in the approximately eighteen months that he stayed in Uitenhage. The move to Uitenhage was to complete illustrated works as a botanist on "*Genera of South African Plants*".
- ♦ On his relocation to Natal, he became the first editor of *Abantu-Batho*, the newspaper of the South African Native National Congress, later to become known as the African National Congress.

Grendon had appealed for unity in sports circles. Grendon believed that "inter-ethnic" relations would improve as more interaction on the playing fields and the related social events took place.

He received his teacher training at Zonnebloem Native College and before his punitive dismissal from teaching he had becomes principal at Edendale Teacher Training College in Natal.

Grendon, as far as can be determined was the first teacher to be victimised in South Africa for political reasons.

1930s—1980s

The oppressor aimed to keep those with intellectual ability in subjugation. Many potential academics amongst the oppressed became teachers in the schools. It was thus not surprising that throughout the 1930's to the 1950's and beyond was occupied in the teachers' organisations. The South African teachers took a revolutionary stance against the segregationist-apartheid enemy. After 1943 both CATA TLSA, initially conservative and race-based organisations took the new road and turned their faces to the people.

Other teachers' organisations that existed at the time were the Orange Free State South African Teachers' Association (OFSATA), Natal African Teachers' Society (NATS), Natal Indian Teachers' Society (NITS), Transvaal African Teachers' Association (TATA), Transvaal Indian and Coloured Teachers' Association (TICTA) that all took similar positions as regards education in our country.

Progressive teachers became engaged in the battle for the minds of the youth. Schools became 'sites of struggle'. The introduction of Christian National Education and the enactment of legislation to establish separate education departments into "*Bantuised*", "*Indianised*" and "*Colourised*" Education Departments led to widespread protests by particularly the teachers of the Cape Teachers' Federal Council.

This of course led to the state acting against the leadership of both CATA and the TLSA.

Dr Verwoerd who had been in charge of Bantu Education (after 1953) had declared, "*When I have control of Native Education, I will reform it so that Natives will be taught from childhood that equality with Europeans is not for them.*"

Progressive teachers' organisations played a uniquely important role in the liberation of the people of South Africa. To counter the aim of the oppressor to mute those with intellectual ability, the most vibrant intellectual and political spaces in South Africa from the 1930s onwards were occupied in the teachers' organisations across the length and breadth of the country.

Teachers were held in high esteem by the communities they served. They were deeply integrated into community life. They opposed the apartheid regime when it was dangerous to do so; when the dreaded Security Branch (Police) in the dead of night would call upon them and arrest teachers without warning, without anyone knowing whether that person would be seen again. This was the calibre of teacher that drove the political and sports struggle. This was the band of teachers that gave momentum to the struggle for liberation

The Cape Teachers' Federal Council was at the forefront of the struggle against the Bantu Education Act that was enacted in 1953. Protests erupted countrywide to this Act. The nightmare persecution then began for these teachers. The state responded by dismissing more than 200 CATA members from teaching including the executive members, RS Canca, J Mkentane, LL Sihlali, T Honono, Mcitheka, Bransby Vusani and Livingstone Mqotsi. Many teachers were banned under the Suppression of Communism Act of 1950 and could not continue teaching amongst those were Ben Kies and Willem van Schoor, both were dismissed in 1956.

In the sixties and even in the eighties, numerous transfers of teachers took place to remote areas of the country. Amongst those were Victor Wessels, Frank vd Horst, Steven Radcliffe, Ebrahim Wicomb, Yusuf Nordien and a host of others, too many to mention.

CAPE TEACHERS FED. COUNCIL 20 DEC 1951



The Brian Isaacs & Wesley Neumann Sagas

It is exasperating when one has to deal with menials in government departments. The menagerie of Inspectors of Education/ Education Development Officers (EDO)/Circuit Managers etc., coupled with all-knowing officious clerks in dingy offices are a constant source of pain and discomfort. Do we have to go through this apartheid-style trauma again? At first Brian Isaacs was victimised

We had thought that the new dispensation, after 1994 would usher in some tenets of democratic values and that educational changes would take place. This does not seem to be the case in the Western Cape. Brian Isaacs was dismissed on charges that were spurious to say the least of it. Isaacs, known for speaking truth to power, spoke out against anti-educational practises in the schools. Why could he not publicly agitate for decent planned education, why could he not reject the failed OBE system that was geared for Flight & Marine Schools? Why could he not reject the planned closure of schools – was this process done democratically? Did the WCED come back to the people on the closure of schools? Why could he not agitate for free schooling when the Norwegians, the Cubans, the Germans and the Danes have free education – China, from whom, just a few months ago, we received a direct investment in excess of R11,4 billion has free education. What about the Japanese? They introduced free education immediately after WWII. Now just look at their economy! This was their most important investment. Some of these countries even offer free education to citizens from other countries (including South Africans) studying in their country.



Wesley Neumann

The latest victim of the draconian measures adopted by the WCED is Wesley Neumann, principal of Heathfield High. His sin was defending his learners during the Corona virus pandemic. The 36 year old Neumann, appointed as principal two years ago recommended together with the school's SGB that parents would have to decide whether they send their children to school or not due to the pandemic. This was in June 2020. A week later the president of the country closed schools until July 2020.

The DA-controlled WCED immediately charged Neumann with disobeying instructions. Much of this relates to Nuemann's alleged lack of respect for Brian Scheuder, the Head of Education in the Western Cape. At 67 years of age Schreuder is two years into the compulsory retirement age of 65. Not wanting to lose his imagined "power" over the department and teachers he was appointed for a further two years.

Neumann survived 32 days of grueling disciplinary hearing stretching over months. The hearing had started in 2020 and ended on 12 July 2021. A key witness, a temporary teacher at the school, whom the Department allegedly tried to bribe with a permanent post to lie at the hearing but was prevented from testifying by the Department. This matter has been reported to the police. Investigation is ongoing.

Neumann was of course found guilty on the six main charges and the six alternate charges. Neumann had the option of presenting mitigating circumstances, but correctly refused to do so. He now is waiting on sentencing. His sentence could either be a warning, a fine, suspension or dismissal.

If dismissed Neumann can appeal to the MEC for Education, Debbie Schäfer. If she turns down the appeal (as she is likely to), he can then take the legal route and at great expense go to the Labour Court, Supreme Court and finally to the Constitutional Court.

Teachers in the WC are facing a brutal DA-led WCED WC government. As the NUM we support the Heathfield High School Special Action Committee leading the struggle in defence of principal Wesley Neumann.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS DO NOT REFLECT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

On 1 November we enter our sixth municipal election in the era of constitutional “democracy.” Once again, we will be required to go and queue to cast our votes in an electoral process that has produced little for us as citizens to be proud of.

1994 did little if anything to improve the lot of the vast majority of South Africans. Unemployment has always been sky-high, and continues to grow, which means that most people live precariously on the edge of survival. The health and educational statistics make dismal reading, and service delivery in most municipalities is atrocious-to-non-existent. What new housing development is taking place is being outpaced by the growth in informal settlements and their population numbers. Meanwhile, crime against ordinary people in the form of murder, robbery and gender-based violence is soaring out of control.

Governmental at all levels is characterised by ineptitude and corruption. The wealth gap is growing. The inequality gap is growing. Our country continues to head for a precipice.

How can this be democratic? How can this reflect the will of the people? How many more elections will it take to bring about even marginal change?

There is a saying: “You get the government you deserve.” This is a cruel observation, but perhaps it contains an element of truth. If we as citizens continue to do nothing to change things other than cast our vote every 5 years, then maybe we deserve this current system.

A big part of the problem is that SA’s version of democracy promotes passivity among the electorate. It is not a democracy OF the people, BY the people, and FOR the people. It is an indirect form of government, in terms of which the masses are required not to engage in self-government, but in a representative form of government. We choose the parties, and the parties choose the candidates who will “represent” us. This makes those “candidates” employees of their parties. Not only do the candidates thereby end up in well-paid, cushy jobs for at least the next five years, but are answerable to their parties (more correctly, their employers) not to us. So, they are actually their parties’ reps, not ours. We didn’t put them there, nor can we recall them.

How can this be democratic? How can this be the will of the people?

Our electoral system functions as a means of social control. Through our vote, we decide which of the parties will be our rulers – to which of them we will hand over the keys to our freedom. They will then be empowered to make and enforce the rules by which we must live. So, for example, in Cape Town, we have a DA government which criminalises homelessness, and which actively supports the destruction of our heritage and ecology by authorising the capitalist exploitation of the Two Rivers Urban Park.

If we were a proper democracy, then the following would be

the case (as spelt out in the Unity Movement’s Ten Point Programme):

Communities shall elect their own public representatives through direct secret ballot. Such public representatives will not be free to act according to their own discretion, but will act within the mandates set by their constituencies. They will be legally obliged to report back to their constituencies at frequent, regular intervals, in order to keep communities apprised and in control of developments and in order to renew their mandates. They will be subject to instant recall. Their remuneration levels will not exceed artisanal rates.

Before parliament and the various provincial and municipal councils can become true instruments of people’s power and truly reflect the will of the people, the people will have to empower themselves to bring such a state of affairs about. In other words, we cannot continue to passively hand over power to the representatives of capitalist class interests via an electoral system devised by those very representatives of capitalist class interests. This means that the struggle must continue and intensify OUTSIDE the halls of power, in the communities of the people. We need to strengthen local grassroots forms of democracy by organising ourselves at local level, in civics and other people’s organisations committed to the overthrow of capitalism and to the institution of socialism – nothing less.

From the early 1970s through the 1980s we did just that, and became an irresistible force against which apartheid could not prevail.

“The people united will never be defeated.” We must make of this more than just a slogan.

Let’s turn our attention away from the sham electoral democracy that is there to entrench the current reality, and let’s go forward to build a people’s democracy.

A LUTA CONTINUA



New Unity Movement

**NOT TO VOTE
IS A VOTE
AGAINST THE
SYSTEM!**

THE CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN!

As they had done in the past 27 years, all the political parties are promising the people a better life in the local government elections on the 1 November. They promise work, homes, better education, free health care, an end to crime and violence. But has anything changed?

NO! Most of the people remain poor, homeless, unemployed and insecure.

IN FACT, THE SITUATION HAS BECOME WORSE FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION

- ◆ Unemployment has increased - 8 million people are out of work.
- ◆ Not enough houses have been provided therefore many people live in terrible conditions under squatter conditions. Instead of building decent, affordable houses, more locations and ghettos exist than ever before. Homeless people are now being evicted from private and state land without alternative accommodation being provided.
- ◆ Millions of children are out of school, with schools of the poor grossly overcrowded. Their schools are falling apart and have shortages of equipment and staff. "Free schooling" is a misleading term because it still costs for working class parents to have their children in school.
- ◆ The government claims that it is providing "free" medical care in its public hospitals and clinics. However, it has not provided sufficient health facilities and proper services because of a continued shortage of medical staff and essential equipment.
- ◆ The cost of living has increased with food prices rising sky-high. With the big increase in food prices, even staple products will soon be too expensive for the millions of poor people.
- ◆ While the food prices are rising, the wages of workers remain low. The workers are forced to strike for higher wages but even then, the bosses refuse to accede to their demands.
- ◆ Crime and violence have increased; many people live in fear and insecurity. Crime and violence are the products of the economic system that is responsible for poverty, unemployment, lack of houses and lack of proper education.

The wealth of this country remains in the hands of the capitalists who continue to exploit the workers by paying them slave wages. The other group who are living off the fat of the land are those in government – local, regional and national. These bureaucratic officials and their lackeys are asking the masses to be patient because things cannot be corrected overnight. At the same time, they have enriched themselves by getting paid high salaries and reaping other benefits. Yet public sector workers such as nurses, teachers and essential civil servant workers remain underpaid.

There are many people who still believe that, given time, the government will deliver. But ever more people are realising that the government will never be able to deliver. This government is but the servant of a capitalist system. To bring about the changes, to remove poverty, to create employment, to give free education and health-care, a government must have political and economic power. And this government has no power because the political and economic system in South Africa is dictated by overseas bosses. This government therefore serves the capitalist system and is in fact anti-worker. The wealth of this country is in the hands of the capitalists who are still raping the resources of the country. These foreign bosses along with the government are grabbing the major share of the wealth produced by the workers. So, while the workers and their families are suffering all the hardships, the government and the bosses are enjoying the benefits of the workers' hard labour. Homes, education, health-care are provided for those who can pay. Those who don't have a job or don't earn a living wage can't pay and will have to go without these essential things.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The sooner we realise that what is happening in South Africa today is not what we have struggled for, the sooner we will realise that we will have to continue the struggle for a South Africa we can all desire - free of exploitation, oppression and corruption. We need to destroy the capitalist system that breeds poverty, unemployment, crime and violence.

We must continue to organise in our local civic associations, progressive trade unions, parent-teacher associations and other democratic bodies that represent the true hopes of the toiling people. **WE WILL NOT VOTE BECAUSE:**

WE DEMAND:

1. **DIRECT PARTICIPATION THROUGH COLLECTIVE SELF-GOVERNMENT IN A PEOPLES' NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENT** and all other levels of government, such as provincial or municipal councils.
2. **THE RIGHT TO WORK, LIVING WAGES**, and just benefits for all workers.
2. **ONE UNIFORM SYSTEM OF FREE COMPULSORY EDUCATION** with common equal rights and facilities for all.
4. **ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL** with the provision of sufficient recreational and cultural facilities.
5. **FREE, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE FOR EVERYONE** in which a sufficient budget is provided which will ensure the provision of comprehensive healthcare to all citizens. All forms of treatment must be provided free of charge.
6. **AN OVERALL REVAMP OF THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM** designed and managed by the toiling classes with the objective of advancing social development.
7. **THE REDISTRIBUTION OF THE LAND.** An end to landlessness. The land is to be used for the economic benefit of all. Food and water sovereignty is the right of all people.
8. **THE RIGHT FOR US AND OUR CHILDREN TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SAFETY** in our homes and in a country where the laws and policies protect the rights of all citizens.
9. **FULL EQUALITY OF RIGHTS** without distinction of "race," colour, gender, sexual orientation or nationality. Freedom of movement, speech and association for all citizens and non-citizens in the country. The fair administration of justice as an obligation upon all officers of the law
10. **A PROGRESSIVE JUST TAX SYSTEM** based on full equality of rights for all citizens.

THE CURRENT SYSTEM (SUPPORTED BY ALL PARTIES):

- 1 **ROBS US OF OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS** and we have mostly incompetent, corrupt local and national officials looking after their own personal interests.
- 2 **REDUCES US TO CHEAP EXPLOITED LABOUR.** They deny us skilled jobs and limit our rights as workers. They create unemployment and retrenchments.
- 3 **SEGREGATES SCHOOLING ALONG CLASS LINES.** They have one system for them and another under-resourced system for the oppressed in order to cripple the minds & development of our children.
- 4 **FORCES THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE TO LIVE IN URBAN AND RURAL GHETTOS** where our children grow up in a world of township terror.
- 5 **FAVOURS THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD PROPER HEALTH CARE**, perpetuating discrimination against the poor, who are reduced to make use of under-resources and inadequate public health facilities.
- 6 **PROMOTES AN UNJUST ECONOMIC SYSTEM** that benefits the capitalist classes both locally and foreign, making South Africa the most unequal society in the world.
- 7 **SUPPORTS AN UNJUST LAND OWNERSHIP PATTERN** the favours the rich. Little regard is given to the degradation of the environment as long as maximum profits can be generated for the capitalists.
- 8 **CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN THE ADMINISTRATION OF LAW THAT IS SKEWED IN FAVOUR OF THE RICH**, both with regard to the civil and criminal procedures and practices in the courts.
- 9 **FAILES TO ADDRESS CONTINUING DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES** with increasing levels of violence against women and children. A perpetuation of "racial" practices.
- 10 **TAXES US IN SUCH A WAY THAT WE BECOME POORER AND POORER.** In spite of the high taxes, we still suffer with a lack of facilities in public service spaces

"REAL VOTING IS ONLY POSSIBLE IN A NORMAL SOCIETY"

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