

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

'DF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



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For discussion purposes only

Proposed joint statement on: "Call for national unity against apartheid and the emergency"

As progressives and democrats we have come to the conclusion that national unity against apartheid generally, and the emergency in particular, must be forged now.

At a time when the present state of emergency seeks to destroy our democratic organisations and thereby attempting to halt our march to freedom, there has never been a greater need for united action.

It is absolutely crucial that all sections of our society opposed to apartheid take a definite stand to bring an end to white minority domination in our country.

We must defend our right to participate directly in shaping our own future. We cannot allow the state of emergency to subvert our historical task of uniting our people to challenge the Nationalist monopoly of power.

The Nationalists have never been as isolated as they are at present. Their desperate attempts to cling to power have included, amongst other things:

- * Wrecked the country's economy and caused massive unemployment and increased hardship all round.
- * Completely disrupted/ destroyed the future of thousands of young South Africans through their persuance of Verwoerdian education policies.
- * Detained thousands of South Africans from all walks of life for their political beliefs.
- * Behind the cover of "law and order" brutalised our people through indiscriminate killings as in Langa.
- * Uprooted millions of South Africans from their homes through forced removals.

We are determined to campaign for national unity of all forces opposed to apartheid and the National Party, and to take South Africa on a road to freedom, peace and democracy.

Together we demand:

- * The lifting of the State of Emergency.
- * The release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners and detainees.
- * The unbanning of the ANC and other banned organisations.
- * The repeal of the draconian controls imposed on students in our schools.
- * The halt of all rent evictions and the meeting of the demands of the residents.
- * A living wage for all workers.
- * Freedom of expression and association.

Through UNITY IN ACTION around such concrete immediate demands, we will be able to isolate the Nationalists even further.

We call on all patriots to support this call for national unity by:

- * Firstly publically stating so and
- * Secondly, uniting in action at a regional and national level, with all other forces opposed to the emergency and apartheid.

Issued by:

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