



Progressive Voice

To Partners of Progressive Change:

The worker struggles, just like other civil modern day liberties, were significant content and, at the centre of all revolutionary struggles across the globe including the Russian Revolutions of 1905, and the widely celebrated revolution of 1917 which ultimately secured victory for the Russian Revolutionaries and its people and, among other things delivered Socialism to the world, albeit briefly!

This centuries old persistence of worker struggles is born of a skewed systemic economic design that places the worker at the bottom of the table, keeping it desperate, voiceless and unheard.

Summoned upon only by an imposed need to feed the insatiable greed and consumption of Capital, almost for free!

In our country, South Africa, this injustice remains gapingly evident in all spheres of our labour force, has a human face and colour "black" and goes unmitigated. With it our society continues as a global example of the world's most unequal society!

While organised labour has managed to advance worker interests and indeed secured some victories in their favour, however, the true plight of the workers has not been recorded as one such victory. Indiscriminate fair pay for work performed across all races has not been achieved.

On this score, we remain in the same position as we were 23 years ago!

It would only appear that the primary objective of our organised labour today is simply to maintain the status quo via their vehement protest against job losses, in it, indeed an important struggle yet the sole fixation on the preservation of employment of the employed as a yardstick on which effectiveness of a progressive labour force is measured, displaces the more supreme struggle of equitable and fair pay.

And this side-sightedness of our organised labour has rendered it mute, and has been reduced to mere pay-hike-percentage-chasers instead of real issues facing a

vast majority of African workers regardless of sector, and the position occupied in their employment hierarchy, from senior management to semi-skilled labour.

This organised labour has become the lauded minimum wage custodian.

With the voices of fair pay humming ever so low, if at all audible from any tower of the latter day organised labour houses.

Unlike other parts of the world, in our case the labour remuneration disparities continue their expression along racial lines. This must change!

As it remains true that the conditions of revolution are ever changing, the same is also true for the representative of such revolutions. When ineffective, they too, similarly need to change or be changed!

And we, at the **Association of Progressive Workers Union** (APWU) truly believe that we are better placed to engage you in this revolutionary conversation and contribute to the ultimate address of the struggles that we, the workers, face.

As did the Russian Revolutions, it takes a concerted effort and the consolidation of common minds, devotion and sacrifice to be victorious.

We invite all labour force comrades regardless of hierarchy, position held or sector of employ, to Travel this journey of our struggle together with us to help transform and invigorate anew the conversation of worker interest for the workers by the workers.

Amandla!!!

