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### PAC's Ideals for a Democratic Azania

There is no doubt genuine misunderstanding as to what the implications are of the enshrining of a new constitution, which we all agree we meet, through the mechanism of a democratically elected and mandated Constituent Assembly.

The first principle that ought to be emphasized is the method of how the CA will be constituted. Both the PAC and the ANC agree that proportionate representation should be the process to be used in voting for delegates to this assembly. This electoral process would ensure the widest possible representation of a cross section of our population. Fears, therefore, of first passed the post with large minorities, political or for whatever reason they consider themselves minorities, will not be represented in the process of constitution making, are unfounded. Voters will vote not in racially demarcated constituencies. They will vote, nationally, for the party of their choice with say a cut off point of 4%, which would ensure representation for small groupings.

Of course many would say this proposal is democratic - but what are the democratic credentials of the PAC. What do they really stand for assuming they attract a large majority of voters?

In November of 1989, PAC representative Gora Ebrahim together with ANC's Thabo Mbeki, and United Nations officials worked into the early hours of the New York morning on a draft document that eventually saw the light as the UN General Assembly; Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive consequences in South Africa. The following principles were enunciated:

- a. South Africa shall become a United, non-racial and democratic;
- b. All its people shall enjoy common and equal citizenship and nationality, regardless of



race, colour, sex or creed;

- c. All its people shall have the right to participate in the Government and administration of the country on the basis of universal, equal suffrage, under a non-racial voters roll, and by secret ballot, in a United and non-fragmental South Africa;
- d. All shall have the right to form and join any political party of their choice, provided that this is not in furtherance of racism.
- e. All shall enjoy universally recognised human rights, freedoms and civil liberties, protected and under an entrenched bill of rights;
- f. South Africa shall have a legal system that will guarantee equality of all before the law;
- g. South Africa shall have an independent and non-racial judiciary;
- h. There shall be created an economic order that will promote and advance the well being of all South Africans;
- i. A democratic South Africa shall respect the rights, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries and pursue a policy of peace, friendship and mutually beneficial co-operation with all peoples.

The document which was adopted by consensus of the General Assembly declared: "We believe that acceptance of these fundamental principles could constitute the basis for an internationally acceptable solution that will enable South Africa to take its rightful place as an equal partner among the world community of nations."

PAC co-authored the Declaration. It did not do so for opportunistic reasons but because the fundamental principles which gave birth to our party 31 years ago was self-determination, non-racialism, the return of the land to the dispossessed and the creation of an African democracy with guarantees, not for minorities, but rather for human rights. It went further than just pronouncing peaceful intentions towards our neighbours, but positively embraced; Pan Africanism and Continental Government. Thirty one years ago it boldly asserted that it was neither East nor West but emphatically anti-imperialist.

The PAC will enter the Constituent Assembly on the basis that the Consensus Declaration of the United Nations, represents bedrock policies of our Party. We believe that a democratically mandated Constituent Assembly is the ideal and most desirable way to establish legitimate government in our country.

BARNEY DESAI

SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION