

Important statement by PYA leaders running as candidates in Wits University SRC elections

09 October 2017

As the Progressive Youth Alliance prepares to contest the 2017/2018 Wits University Student Representative Council (SRC) elections, we recommit ourselves to our unwavering and unconditional commitment to all progressive struggles for freedom and justice - both locally and internationally. South African students were once the beneficiaries of international solidarity by students and young people in the 1980s who protested against Apartheid South Africa on their campuses demanding that their institutions of higher learning respect the academic boycott against South Africa.

We are aware that other organizations do not appreciate internationalism, international solidarity or the need to support students and causes in other countries. However, we remain resolute that internationalism is a fundamental pillar in our outlook and from all feedback, our students at Wits are a caring community that does involve itself with the plight of students in other countries. We, in some ways, in our solidarity with the people of Cuba, Western Sahara, Palestine and others are re-paying a debt for the support that we once received. But, in addition, our interconnectedness and intersectionality makes us stronger as a student movement. We are indeed better for receiving and giving international solidarity!

The yolk of imperialism, colonialism and apartheid that impaled our countries history and continues to suppress the interests of black working class Africans, and students in particular, is deeply embedded in the oppression meted against our fellow students in Cuba, Palestine and others who are living under oppressive conditions. The legacy of racism and oppression is yet to be defeated. As students who mobilise against injustice and systematic oppression in all its manifestations, we therefore have a duty to stand in solidarity with the people of Cuba, Palestine and other progressive people who are facing systems of injustice and who championing the fight against imperialist control and oppression.

As the month of revolutionary anti-apartheid stalwart and President Oliver Reginald Kaizana Tambo (OR) is upon us, the Wits PYA 15 reaffirms its support for all international struggles. In particular, we reaffirm, as Wits University PYA members, our commitment to the resolutions of our upper structures that have called for no student leader to accept any gift from or trip to the Apartheid state of Israel. Israel and its lobby is trying to entice our student leaders in a similar way that Apartheid SA enticed students in other countries during the 1980s by providing freebie propaganda trips. We take this so serious that, due to complaints, one PYA members who went on such a strip in defiance of organizational positions, Ntokozo Luthuli has resigned from structures of the PYA for violating our policies.

We the PYA 15 believe that boycotting apartheid Israel is kernel to overthrowing the Israeli regime and liberating the Palestinians, this is the least that we can do. Thus, in line with the resolutions in support of the BDS movement by the national structures of SASCO, MSA, YCL and ANCYL (the components of the PYA) and in line with the 2012

we, as the PYA 15, affirm our support to the Palestinian cause and pledge not to accept any Israeli propaganda trip or to collaborate with pro-Israel organizations during our term. No member of the PYA 15, either as a candidate, SRC members or member of any PYA structures will sell out the Palestinian cause and defy the resolutions of SASCO, the Wits SRC, SAUS, the ANC, YCL and MSA by going on these propaganda junkets to Israel.

We also call on the Israeli lobby in South Africa to stop patronizing black South Africans with #seeIsraelforyourself trips that aim to obscure, mislead, undermine and misrepresent the plight of the Palestinians. If money can be wasted attempting to deceive black students then that money can be used to fund our accommodation, food, and tuition fee crises. Neither our students nor our solidarity is for sale.

Forward to the championing of the the cause of our students!

Forward to internationalism and our interconnectedness as students!

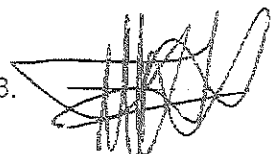
Yours in solidarity,

Wits PYA 15

Signed:

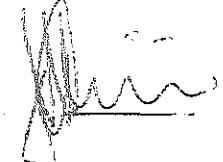
1.  \_\_\_\_\_ Kambule Hlanganipho

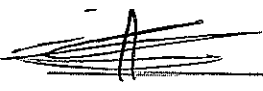
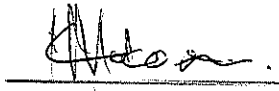




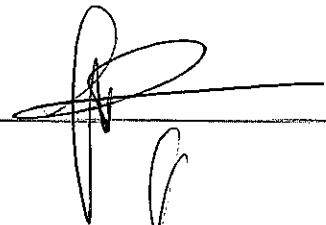
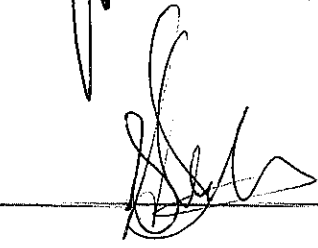
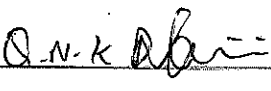
2.  \_\_\_\_\_ Mathibe Themba

3.  \_\_\_\_\_ Tshabalala Sthembiso

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Nhlengethwa Smanga

5.  \_\_\_\_\_ Mfeka Mpendulo

6.  \_\_\_\_\_ Mnisi Jamie-Lee

7.  Karim Azra
8.  Mokoena Katlego
9.  Mathibe Selebogo
10.  Jama Palomino
11.  Dadoo Rashaad Yusuf
12.  Ndlovu Phindile
13.  Qweshha Vuyo
14.  Shabalala Sibusiso
15.  Dlamini Qiniso