

THE FRAUDULENT ELECTIONS OF 6 MAY '87

(being a reproduction of a Press Statement issued by the New Unity Movement)

Right at the outset the New Unity Movement condemns the elections of 6 May 1987, for 'white' voters as a tragic and destructive farce.

Three million enfranchised citizens are being called upon to endorse one or other policy of 'race', colour and class discrimination which five parties have on offer. A handful of 'independent' candidates offer their own variations on these policies. Committed segregationists yesterday, they are being offered as instant 'saviours' of the updated apartheid of tomorrow. Twenty-six million disfranchised, oppressed South Africans are supposed to be mute spectators in this bizarre, make-believe election to decide their future.

On the one hand, this election may be regarded as a 'non-event' for the disfranchised. But it would be a grave error to disregard the fact of this election, or to disregard the wheeling-and-dealing, mudslinging, deception, rabble-rousing, fear-mongering being used to lure voters to the polls. Such actions deserve the scorn, anger and contempt of all honest men and women.

The myths of 'race', kultur and 'self-determination', 'own affairs' management, 'national independence' and homelands segregation and self-oppression pollute the South African scene. There is still an 'emergency' in force. Thousands of political prisoners are in jail; millions are unemployed and homeless. Disease, hunger and starvation stalk the country. Yet the ruling class refuses to recognise the central problems facing the disfranchised majority. For the New Unity Movement and all South Africa the solutions to these problems are:

- * the attainment of full and equal citizenship by all South Africans in an undivided South Africa.
- * the wiping out of exploitation, poverty, unemployment and all forms of discrimination.
- * the freedom of the masses from national oppression and of South Africa from foreign domination and exploitation.

These issues are not the concern in this election. The election is devised to place in power a government that will maintain the present order of society. This election, therefore, is not only a patent fraud in terms of democratic principles; it is a violent abuse of privilege, prejudice and power to maintain a social system which the vast majority reject. But the majority has been rendered voiceless. They are being denied the right to take part in the democratic processes by which society can be made civilised and safe for everyone.

For these reasons alone the 'elections' must not be dismissed as a 'non-event'. They frustrate the growth of democracy and peace in South Africa.

That they are to be followed on 19 October 1988, by another spectacular fraud in local 'elections' for Regional Services Councils worsens the prospect for the future.

Three million 'white' voters will indulge on 6 May in a grand illusion that this election can bring peace and joy into their lives and those of their children or of twenty-six million voiceless oppressed.

The pre-election stunts have brought into the open fascist gangs who seem to enjoy the confidence of ruling class parties; dirty tricks specialists whose stories of foreign agents, 'rooi gevaars', 'swart gevaars' and secret funds make a mockery of free elections; and media 'specialists' who outshine the Goebbelses and Lord Haw-Haws of past history. Buying votes has been made a national occupation. A quarter of a billion rand is being given to 'white' farmers while 'black' peasants are being driven off their lands and 'black' pupils sit in schools without desks, books and food. Such is the moral base of this election.

We say to all the oppressed masses in South Africa:

The 6 May election is yet another threat to our very existence. They show once again that the present rulers are illegitimate and unfit to govern.

Only the organised, united political struggles of the masses and their allies can bring democracy to South Africa.

Only the extension of the full franchise to all South Africans can produce honest, truly democratic elections in the interests of all South Africa.

We must turn our backs upon this fraudulent election.

Our road is FORWARD -- FORWARD in the struggle for nothing less than full democratic rights, ONE South Africa, ONE parliament, ONE NATION.

APRIL 1987

Issued by the National Co-ordinating Committee of the New Unity Movement

OUR VIEW OF THE "WHITES-ONLY" ELECTION RESULTS

"All thinking, caring people are reeling from the shock of the election where we witnessed the most shameful accusations, innuendos, slander, smears and hypocrisy . . ."

So wrote Mrs A. Grayson in a letter to the "Natal Witness" of 20 May 1987.

Mrs Grayson clearly moves and lives in a limited circle of PFP types. The millions of the thinking and caring blacks are, decidedly, NOT reeling from the results of the Whites-only election and the propaganda techniques of the Nats. This is so because the oppressed have become accustomed to right wing politics dominating the Herrenvolk scene.

Elections to the Whites-only House of Assembly is like a bizarre game we witness -- a game played by the Herrenvolk to decide who is going to hold the reins of power