



# APDUSA VIEWS

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# **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

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## **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



and crack the whip. The only point of dispute is how best to oppress and exploit the blacks. Is it going to be:—

- (a) The way of the AWB-CP, that is, the unrestrained use of the sjambok? or
- (b) The way of the Nats, that is, the sjambok plus the rubber carrot? or
- (c) The way of the PFP, that is, the use of the sugar-coated bitter pill?

The oppressed and exploited have watched this game for over 300 years. The results have always been the same as far as their lives are concerned. Hence our boredom and indifference. Hence our belief that not even the grave will cure a hunch-back.

But the oppressed do reel and are reeling presently from the unbridled violence which is sweeping the country and the helplessness of the victims. They reel from starvation caused through unemployment and slave wages. In all this, how would “better” election results have helped? What if the PFP had gained 6 seats instead of losing the same number? How would that have resolved the fundamental conflict of our land?

For the PFP the gain of 6 seats would have been VICTORY. For the oppressed it would have been meaningless!

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## **THE HYPOCRISY OF THE ENGLISH PRESS**

The results of the “Whites-only” elections left the PFP staggering like a punch-drunk boxer. Post election depression set in and urgent psychotherapy was indicated. The English Press hurried to the rescue. An acceptable reason had to be found for crushing defeat. That reason turned out to be the mighty propaganda machine of the Nationalist Party which swung votes away from the PFP.

According to Dr van Zyl Slabbert, the extraparliamentary spokesman of the PFP:—

“Information was ruthlessly and cynically controlled, the television was used by the Government to create a seige theory . . . The maligning of opponents was ruthless, brutal and consistent . . . It was all such putrid demagoguery . . .”  
(Sunday Tribune — 10 May 1987).

The Sunday Tribune took up the same theme:

“Mr President, we acknowledge your skill and determination as a political campaigner. You called for a mandate on security. You whipped up a near-war psychosis and you used every trick imaginable to exploit the fear and uncertainty of voters to secure for yourself what is undoubtedly for you a great triumph.”

Both Dr Slabbert and the Editor of the Sunday Tribune have conveniently omitted mention of the role of the English Press in the “putrid demagoguery” and “every trick imaginable”.

We refer to the massive campaign of full page advertisements inserted by the Nationalist Party in the English Press where it was able to engage in the "putrid demagoguery", etc. The target was the PFP. While we hold no brief for the PFP, we do level an indictment against the English Press for its role as an accomplice. By publishing these advertisements, the English Press joined the propaganda machine of the Nationalist Party.

No doubt, we will be assailed with a sermon about the freedom of the press and how the English Press was honour-bound to publish those advertisements. We say that that stance is nothing more than hypocritical hogwash. The Queensberry rules of boxing do not apply when you have to face a streetfighter armed with a flick knife and knuckle-duster. If the scales were heavily tilted in favour of the Nats because of the latter's use of the radio and television, the Munnik Commission, etc, the principle of the free press does not impose a duty to add more weight in favour of the Nats. In truth, there is nothing free about the "free press". You need MONEY, and lots of it, to enjoy that free press. Those advertisements cost hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of rand. MONEY TALKED AND THE ENGLISH PRESS PRINTED. Being capitalists, they will not let slip an opportunity to make profit. Thus it came about that the English Press sold the horse it backed for the infamous thirty pieces of silver.

Having done that, the English Press now seeks to present the Nats as the arch-villain of the piece. It reminds one of the hired assassin palming off the blame of the foul deed on those who hired him to do it.

There, in a nutshell, you have it – the hypocrisy of the English Press.

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## REPLY TO OUR CRITICS ON "PMB 2000"

APDUSA'S analysis and condemnation of the project "PMB 2000" has been met with hostility from the liberal establishment.

The "Natal Witness", in its editorial, accused us of being "defeatist" while Mrs Ann Grayson has publicly expressed disappointment to our response. She claimed that we were being negative.

We are genuinely surprised by the criticism. We believed that our statement is a serious one, which was presented only after a great deal of thought and study. We have fully set out our objections to the project and we say why it must fail.

If we are wrong in our analysis and conclusions then we must be shown where we erred. This means that our critics must show that:—

- (a) We have not set out all the relevant facts
- (b) Our information is inaccurate or incorrect
- (c) Our conclusions are wrong because "PMB 2000" is viable and CAN work.

Nothing of that sort was done. All the "Natal Witness" did was to present the public with an analogy about it being "better to light a candle than curse the dark-



ness". Now, the trouble with analogies is their abuse. Analogies can be effectively employed to ILLUSTRATE a point or argument. But, by THEMSELVES, analogies cannot PROVE the point or argument. That can only be done by logical and factual argument. There is no escaping that process. Analogies cannot be a short cut to a conclusion.

Of course, a lighted candle is preferable to total darkness. But we need to be told exactly what the candle is supposed to represent; what does it entail, and more important, how is it to be achieved? That, the Editor does not do. The analogy is supposed to take care of that. Well, we have outgrown fairy tales and entertaining analogies. We need hard facts, solid arguments and flawless reasoning. Until that comes to light, we adhere to our standpoint and reject the accusation of defeatism.

As for Mrs Grayson, we find it difficult to believe that she, in the light of her remarks, has studied our pamphlet. If she had, she would have realised that we were stating our views on a project as a single entity. Our rejection of the project has **nothing to do** with those people, who in their own ways, assist other people in need of help. We are **not** saying: Don't help. We recognise that as long as there is need and suffering, kind and caring people will always render assistance out of charity and humanity. We do not and cannot stop this process, although we make it very clear that if there is to be an end to such suffering, we must attack the root cause and not to confine our activity to the symptoms of an unjust social system.

Our objection to "PMB 2000" is NOT that we want to prevent people from rendering help, but we do want to prevent people from being led up the garden path by being made to believe that the project will significantly alter their way of life.

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## **MISUSE OF MAYOR'S MERCY?**

When the people of Pietermaritzburg were told that R110 000,00 was to be spent for the purchase of a new Mercedes Benz for the Mayor, they were outraged at the extravagance. We were then told that a new car, at that price, was essential for the upholding the dignity of the Mayor's Office. We are aware of the existence of a certain breed of people whose dignity needs to be held by luxury cars bought with public funds. Our view is that dignity cannot be bought. We believe that dignity in a public office flows from a sense of dedication to serve people from honesty, humility, uprighteousness and sensitivity.

Be that as it may. We now hear that the Mayor had used the new car to convey his dogs to the SPCA. Again, an outraged people. People want to know whether Mr Mark Cornell, the Mayor has no car of his own. If he does, as he should, then why didn't he use his private car to cart his private dogs?

But no! According to "knowledgeable" people, the Mayor is entitled to use the new car, bought with public funds, to convey his dogs. In other words, the dignity of the Mayor's office also extends to his dogs. So we now have Mayoral Dogs! Interesting.

Caligula, a Roman Emperor (born 12 A.D., died 41 A.D.), according to some historians, made his horse a Consul of Rome. History, it is said, repeats itself.

Will it?

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## ELECTION POST MORTEM

Dear Sir,

“White” South Africa can unwind, now that the results of “general elections” have been announced. For the benefit of the lesser informed, I refer to the charade where three million “a whiter shade of pale” South Africans were called upon to vote for a government to rule themselves and twenty-eight million “off-white” disenfranchised South Africans. To ensure this “democracy”, strict control was exercised at the polling booths and officials of appropriate reputation were selected to relate the results.

Perhaps, needless to state, the party that called for the elections won it (which, incidentally, is why an election was called for in the first place).

Latest reports, which have taken two days to filter in from Pofadder, indicate that the leader of the CP has been granted freedom of the hamlet. He will now be able to lead the town in its favourite pastime — reading and re-reading all four pages of the collected works of Paul Kruger.

What effect will the new official opposition have on the NP? This is a case of the left hand versus the right hand, with both hands belonging to the same body! Perhaps, soon, the police will be condemned with fresh fervour, not for their brutality, but for failing to subdue “political unrest” with greater speed and force — with the traditional call of “Vak hom Blakkies. Show him who’s boss”. When, with typical periscopic vision, the CP calls for people to be classified according to the ease with which a fine tooth comb passes through their hair, we can expect the NP to ban all “hair straighteners”. A characteristically obtuse response.

While the media fuelled the “white” public election euphoria, many oppressed South Africans thought back to the 1984 elections where, apart from the discovery that the dead had voted, the oppressed gave their answer to the government’s fraudulent “reform” proposals.

Last, and most important, millions of our fellow oppressed waited — most, hungry and shivering, in derelict shelters — planning and struggling for our tomorrow. Our future lies here!

“RNC”

## COSATU HOUSE

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on the recent bombing at COSATU House.

Firstly, is it not amazing that the Police were at the scene during the blast? If, instead, members of the foreign press (or, indeed of the local press) had been present,



there would have been the usual accusation of their having had a "tip-off" or "inside information". They might even have been accused of inciting violence by their mere presence.

Secondly, not long before this incident, members of COSATU were cruelly beaten by the police. Is it not strange that the police are suddenly so eager to protect COSATU House. Their diligence in trying to find the perpetrators of this outrage is commendable. No ordinary police force would have thought of searching, amongst other places, an entire block of flats in Hillbrow for those responsible. The fact that this turned out to be a crackdown on those breaking the provisions of the Group Areas Act is seen as coincidental – by those with blinkers.

Thirdly, the dark hints that the perpetrators of the bomb-blast are a section of the oppressed themselves, impresses nobody. It will not create divisions amongst the oppressed.

"A people united will never be defeated!"

Yours in the struggle,

"Who's Fooling Who?"

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. Eugene Terreblanche, leader of the AWB and who belongs to a prehistoric age referred to the African and Coloured people as "Kaffirs and bastards". No expression of outrage from the ruling class, no Munnik-like commission of inquiry; no investigation by the Police of the clear offence of *crimen injuria*. We wonder why? Is it because the powers-that-be themselves think in terms of "Kaffir, Coolie and bastard" and amongst themselves in private even use these insulting words? We believe that Herrenvolkism is so deeply imprinted in their brains that it would come as no surprise to us if indeed, they did bandy those words in their minds and in private conversation. In public, they still think those insulting words, but between the brain and the lips, diplomacy steps in and the words "Kaffirs and bastards" are translated into "Blacks and Coloureds".
2. When the Pietermaritzburg City Council was tackled about the invitation to renegade Rajbansi to officially open the Khan Road Civic Centre and Sports complex, it used the evasion of etiquette to wriggle out. It stated that the invitation was already accepted and, therefore, there was no way it could cancel or take back the invitation. We are not prepared to make that concession. For a start, if we are going to talk about etiquette, then the **first step** should have been to ascertain the wishes of the people as to who they wanted to open the complex. Secondly, the courtesy which the City Council accorded to Rajbansi is a courtesy practised among ordinary people in their daily social intercourse. Rajbansi does not belong to ordinary people. He is a traitor to the ordinary people. He is a political outcast. Outcasts are not entitled to courtesy.