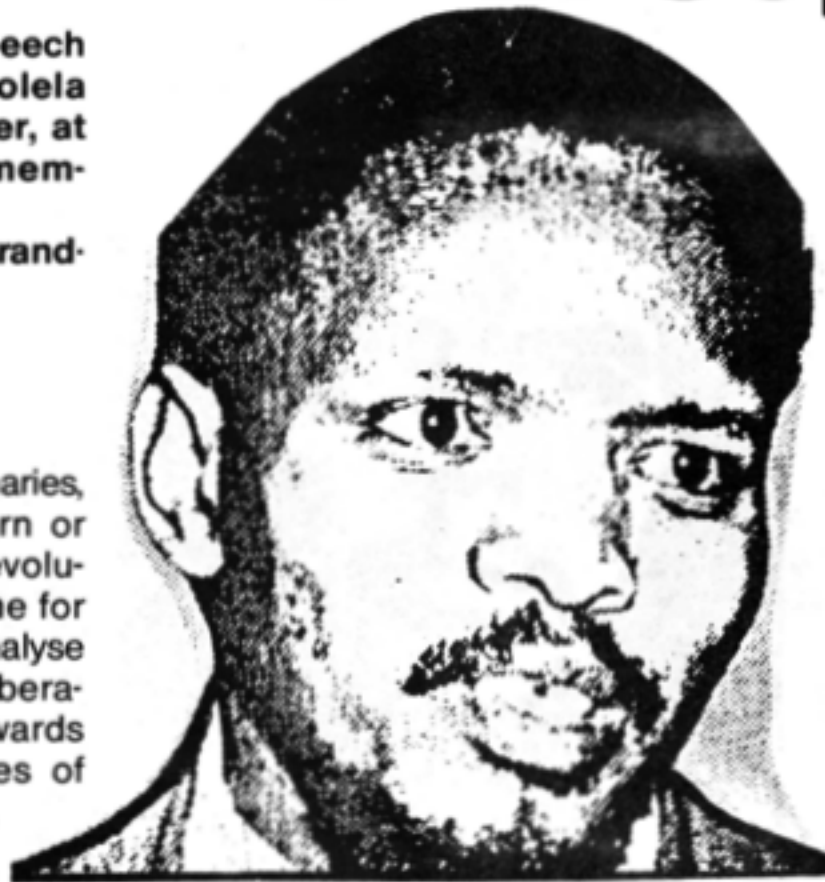


BIKO DAY: 11th September

Below are extracts from a speech delivered by Comrade Xolela Mangcu, an Azasm member, at a meeting held in commemoration of Steve Biko. (University of the Witwatersrand-11 September 1986).

Comrades and fellow revolutionaries, this is not the time to mourn or weep over the death of a revolutionary. This is rather the time for revolutionaries to correctly analyse the struggle in the course of liberation, and act decisively towards the elimination of the forces of oppression and exploitation.



big business

Whilst these forces come in different hues with different solutions to the problems of the oppressed, they all seek the maintenance of the system, albeit in a modified form. However, a true revolutionary cannot be deceived. We have seen for instance, big business representatives in the likes of Gavin Relly, Raymond Ackerman, Tony Bloom calling for the dismantling of apartheid. We have continually heard from representatives of rich, white urban constituencies like the PFP calling for the extension of the franchise to black people and the creation of a unitary state in a "non-racial democratic South Africa".

imperialism

Regimes like America and Britain have also joined the queue waiting for the end of apartheid. Characterising all these agents of capitalism is an underlying liberalism. A liberalism that calls for greater co-operation between black and white whilst emasculating the liberation struggle and safeguarding capitalist interests.

Steve Biko came along in the seventies, arguing that you are either part of the problem or part of the solution, and called for black self-reliance. It is only those who had power to subjugate people on the basis of 'race' who could be racist, and black people did not have this power.

liberalism

Liberalism was to re-emerge after the murder of Steve Biko and the banning of black consciousness organisations in 1977. Liberal-bourgeois alternatives like a national convention and negotiations have become acceptable to the reactionary petit-bourgeoisie and businessman.

workers' power

It is only when workers' hegemony is established in this country that peace can prevail. It is only when the majority of people in this country, the black workers who have made this country what it is, enjoy the benefits of their labour that justice can prevail.

It is time for us as students, to emerge from our cocoons and forge working links with worker organisations, hold meetings and conscientise each other about the working class struggle.



RETURN TO SCHOOL

We in Action Youth wholeheartedly support the call made by all progressive organisations including the UDF, National Forum, Azasm, NECC, Sansco, Azapo, Azanyu, ANC, PAC and BCMA for a return to schools by boycotting students.

In the Vol. 1 No. 6 issue of Arise/Vukani of March 1986, we stated our position on the boycott of schools clearly:

"We realise that it is only in the long-term, in a post racial-capitalist



South Africa, that we will have a genuine education. Yet in the short term, we can attempt to turn the classrooms into centres of liberation. Schools are a site of struggle. We must not surrender this area to the enemy without a fight.

If we boycott indefinitely, we'll be giving up the schools which belong to us, up to the enemy. Together with progressive teachers, we can challenge the authoritarian teaching methods and the content of the present educational system which is aimed at preparing our youth for the cheap labour market".