

Who Is Right And Who Is Wrong?

Western observers are confused by the different signals which black South Africans are sending out about the desirability or otherwise of sanctions. In assessing who is right and who is wrong, and in assessing who represents the real sentiments of black South Africa, a number of things have to be borne in mind. Opinions of black leaders who cannot be censured by grassroots people must be regarded as more suspect than black leaders who can be censured when it comes to deciding who has the right to speak for black South Africa. As President of Inkatha, I dare not express my own opinions. I am elected to articulate the views of the massive (1.6 million) membership of Inkatha. Inkatha rejects disinvestment and its members have repeatedly expressed themselves unanimously on this issue at successive Annual General Conferences. I know of no mass membership organisation which is democratically structured and

which has an elected leadership directly answerable to the people which endorses sanctions. It is black spokesmen in the South African Council of Churches, the United Democratic Front and the Congress of South African Trade Unions who call for sanctions. Not one of them is directly answerable to a mass membership organisation. They are all chosen for office by committees which are themselves not elected committees. The African National Congress Mission in Exile calls for sanctions. The vast majority of blacks who call for sanctions do so in part because they are committed to destroying the free enterprise system in South Africa. This is understandable because they see the destruction of the South African economy as a necessary step that must be taken before apartheid can be eradicated. It is very significant that black leaders who are most committed to using revolutionary violence to bring about a one-party socialist State, call the loudest

for sanctions. Black democracy in South Africa is shackled. Prominent leaders are in jail, organisations are banned and there is no freedom of expression and freedom of political association for blacks. The black masses in South Africa are precluded from determining the who's who of leadership. It is therefore necessary to judge whether or not the majority of blacks support sanctions or not by looking at the way the ordinary black man in the street behaves. Black workers vote with their feet against disinvestment when they stand in queues outside the factory gates of foreign investors desperately seeking work. Not one single foreign-owned factory is out of production in South Africa because blacks refuse to work in it. In fact in most cases blacks prefer employment in a foreign owned factory because Western investors have led the field of black worker advancement and corporate responsibility. Black South African workers know that unless they work their families starve.

