

FRIENDSHIP

- Sonny Gwadela

We all know what friendship is and its prevalence among people; this shows mutual understanding and healthy relations among them. This friendship comes up because of many reasons; it might happen that some people became friends because they were from the same place, or they attended one school, or worked in one factory, etc. This kind of friendship is ordinary friendship.

There is another kind of friendship which is more serious and deeper, this is comradeship. It manifests itself in progressive and revolutionary movements and people fighting against oppression and exploitation of man by man, to ensure freedom and peace. Comradeship prevails because of the realisation of the indispensability of one comrade to the other. It is more important than mere friendship because the goal that binds comrades is supreme and so unity amongst them is indispensable.

The realisation of the importance of comradeship is determined by one's political understanding; to understand the need to strive for unity and comradeship. Surely if one understands the importance of his role in the revolution and the role of his comrade then mutual respect is sure to prevail, and so the ranks are closed and no one can easily drive a wedge between them.

COMRADESHIP

There is also another kind of friendship which is emphasised at the expense of comradeship. This kind of friendship is dangerous, destructive and misleading. It is blind friendship which cannot be tolerated in our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe. This friendship makes one fail to see mistakes and wrongs of his 'friend' and as a result fail to correct him, not realising that firstly he is destroying his 'friend' and secondly, the whole collective suffers. It does not end there but one goes to the extent of defending the wrongs of his 'friend'. In doing this he expects the same from his 'friend' so that he may appear good with no mistakes. This tendency is wrong and does not show conscious discipline. To correct this it is necessary for one to understand that no one is

without shortcomings. Stressing this, one comrade said: "The one who does not commit mistakes is one who is dead." It may be added that having committed an error one must acknowledge them and strive not to repeat them in future.

There are natural bonds between people, like relatives, families, friends, lovers, etc. But all these are subordinated to one's prime goal, namely, the discharging of one's revolutionary duties and maintenance of good comradely relations which give no room for blind friendship - tribalism and regionalism. These tendencies are backward and cannot be accepted in our People's Army; they are a crime and are very reactionary. Portraying the healthy unity prevalent in our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, our people's President, Comrade O.S. Tambo, speaking on the 68th anniversary of the African National Congress in this Year of the Charter said:

"... Umkhonto we Sizwe, the army of the people of South Africa, is itself united throughout its heroic ranks, within its detachments and between its cadres, its commanding personnel and its political leadership. Thanks to this unity, it has decisively and successfully repulsed enemy attempts to destroy it from within through the infiltration of spies and provocateurs".

To maintain this unity and uplift it, let it be everyone's duty to practically strive for it.

DAWN political word No. 7 - Answers

Across: 1. Manguang 6. Kurr 7. OK 9. Eel
10. Soweto 11. Fools 13. Nzo
16. Journalist

Down: 1. Moses 2. NIC 3. Umkhonto 4. Green
5. Endless 8. Neto 12. Laos 14. Zoo
15. UN