



Editorial Comment

JUNE 16 - THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The e v e n t s of June 16 1976 that rocked our country, reinforced the people's consciousness of the fact that their united refusal to be ruled by a minority was a crucial condition towards mustering a reliable offensive against oppression. The youth, who this time were in the van of the upsurge demonstrated to our country and the world that Apartheid was not a monolith that could not be moved. In this way June 16 became a milestone in our difficult path towards liberation.

The f i v e years that have since elapsed have not only affirmed the political significance of this great upheaval, but also served to further expose the emptiness of Nationalist Party professions against its rule of uninterrupted terror and genocide. On the other hand this period brought about new challenges and lessons which when met, promoted our struggle to greater heights.

We are now drawing nearer to June 16 1981, which marks the 5th Anniversary of the day. The blood of the thousands of young martyrs butchered in cold blood in the streets of Soweto, Mamelodi, Langa, etc., is still calling. We remember young Hector Petersen, Steve Biko and thousands of our fallen militants and we say: "Your blood has watered the seed and you

shall be avenged."

The spirit of June 16 lives on and its generation is marching at the head of the column waving the banner of our fighting youth. We refuse to be cowed down by the fascists; we refuse to submit to the oppressor. We are inspired by the uncompromising stand of the young hero, Solomon Mahlangu, the great feat of the Silverton Trio, the courage of the young lion in Chiawelo - Gordon Dikebu. We are the thousands out to avenge the Matola Twelve. Those who cannot be moved by our united determination to correct the situation of fascist oppression, hunger and unabated bloodshed meted against the millions of our people, let them be moved by fear that our people have long reached the end of their tether and that a massive upsurge culminating in a popular overthrowal of the obnoxious apartheid system and the destruction of all its tentacles is the only logical course of our fight.

F R E E D O M D A Y

During the month of June again, our Freedom Day will once more be upon us. This is the day when we pause to re-examine the thorny path we have traversed so far - a path marred by Bulhoek, Sharpevilles, Sowetos, etc. On this day we are reminded of the gross injustice and humiliation we have suffered as a people in the hands of the fascist monster. On this day we should therefore pledge to fight uncompromisingly in pursuit of the freedom demands laid down in the Freedom Charter. We invite our friends and allies, the whole of peace-loving mankind to observe South African Freedom Day by extending gestures of solidarity and pledging to impose effective sanctions against the Pretoria fascists. In this way they will be contributing immensely to the victory of peace and progress in our country and the world at large.

As for us, June 16 and June 26 are occasions during which we demonstrate actively our opposition to apartheid rule in all its manifestations. Let us therefore organise and unite in the call to boycott the festivities of the fascist republic and advance with determination towards the translation into reality of the ideal of a free, non racial and democratic republic based on the Freedom Charter.

REMEMBER OUR MARTYRS!

LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF JUNE 16!

FORWARD TO FREEDOM!