

Africa shall be free when Azania is liberated

The road ahead

This position statement emerged as a result of the deliberations held at the National Internal Summit on the Nkomati Accord at Edendale on 21-22 April 1984. The NFC appreciated FRELIMO'S dilemma and emphasized that the Black people of Azania need to gather their vital resources - only the liberation of Azania can mean liberation for Africa.

We, the oppressed and exploited people of Azania, are witnessing the intensification of the imperialist to assault and hegemonic interests in the region which is aimed at stemming the tide of the total liberation of the people of South Africa.

We note with concern the role some statesmen in Southern Africa have played in that they have become tools of imperialism by promoting the general project of weakening the liberation movement and entrenching racism in South Africa.

For this reason the National Internal Summit called by the National Forum Committee has examined the following issues and passed the following resolutions:

1. Our resolve in regard to the Frontline states.

We acknowledge that the Frelimo Government despite its valiant struggle against Portuguese colonialism and its support for liberation struggles in South Africa was compelled to sign the Nkomati Accord under extreme pressure. Constrained by the heritage of their colonial past and by economic and military considerations beyond their control, they chose this dangerous path of placing their faith in the hands of South Africa's designs and American Imperialism.

2. Warning to Frontline States.

Against this background we wish to strongly remind the Frontline states and other signatories to the Lusaka

Manifesto of 1969 that the destabilising efforts and accords in the region contradict even the moderate sentiments of that manifesto.

We also wish to impress upon the Frontline States that the political developments in this country have reached a point where it is necessary for them to reassess their position and to take heed and not dilute and distort the aspirations and ideas of the oppressed and exploited masses.

3. On the national convention and the civil rights struggle.

We reject the idea of encouraging a national convention as a strategy by the ruling class and their allies which will entrench power in the hands of the racist capitalist regime and their puppets, and thereby betray the struggle for total liberation.

It is in this context that the reduction of the struggle for national self-determination to a mere civil rights campaign is condemned as a gross misrepresentation of the revolutionary character of the struggle.

4. National self-determination.

We reiterate that our struggle is one for national self-determination which is characterised by:

- *The reconquest of the land;*
- *The building of an Azanian nation through an ongoing process of struggle;*

- *The leadership of the black working class;*
- *A socialist character and content.*
- *Anti-imperialism*

5. The forces of liberation

We view the struggle for liberation as a single struggle waged by various liberation forces and we see the Nkomati accord and related events in Swaziland, Lesotho and other countries as a temporary setback.

We, therefore, consider the weakening of any of these as a blow to the entire liberation movement.

6. The road ahead.

In the light of the Nkomati Accord the focus of our struggle will undoubtedly shift onto the internal arena. In this circumstance the liberation forces are presented with an historic opportunity to turn a weakness into a strength.

More than ever before it is incumbent on us to promote practical principled unity of all organisations of the oppressed and exploited people.

The Nkomati Accord indirectly extends the reservoir of cheap black labour on which the racist, capitalist regime thrives and this threat to the labour movement must be met by intensifying organisation and struggle in trade unions and other working class structures.