

# LET US BURY THE RACIST PARLIAMENT NOW!



The undying desire for a Constituent Assembly and an Interim government will continue to move millions of the oppressed to united mass action for people's power.

Since the unbanning of the ANC and other political organisations last year, the apartheid regime started its last journey to disintegration.

The struggling masses of South Africa scored a resounding victory in forcing the regime to enter into negotiations with the ANC in an attempt to find a peaceful resolution to the current political conflict.

At present talks about talks between the government and the ANC concerns the removal of obstacles that will clear the way for real constitutional negotiations to start. The fundamental question facing the oppressed is the drawing up of a democratic constitution that will replace the racist one currently in force. Such a mechanism is called a Constituent Assembly (CA).

Simply put, a CA is a body that debates and draws up a new constitution for a new order. It is elected on a non-racial, one person, one vote basis usually by the proportional representation electoral system. The idea of a CA was first practised in France over 200 years ago after the overthrow of a dictator King Louis XVI in the French Revolution.

A CA operates during the period of transition from an oppressive system of rule to a new democratic political order.

It is important to note that the CA has no power of making laws except that of making a new constitution.

After the completion of its task, the CA generally disbands: thus paving the way for national elections for a new government.

## Interim government

During the course of the drawing up of a new constitution by the CA, a temporary administrative machinery takes control of the army, the police, the broadcasting service and other major services of the decaying order.

Such a temporary administration is called an Interim government.

## April 30 deadline

The apartheid regime has until the 30th April to remove all obstacles in the way of constitutional negotiations to begin. Some of these obstacles are:

- \* the release of all political prisoners;
- \* the return of all exiles;
- \* the ending of all state-sponsored violence;
- \* the repeal of all repressive laws; and
- \* an end to all political trials and all executions.

The CA remains the only democratic option leading to a non-racial South Africa. At the core of it lies the democratic will of the people expressed in the content of the constitution.

Secondly, the majority political party has the democratic right to influence the shape and spirit of the new constitution.

It is in this spirit that the CA remains the most reliable and democratic mechanism to ensure the birth of a democratic South Africa.

All political parties with credible constituencies will have the right to participate in

the drafting of a new constitution.

It is no surprise that the apartheid regime, which has a proven history of ruling by sheer brute force and coercion, rejects the CA.

This rejection bears testimony to the democratic character of the people's demands for a CA and an Interim government.

The stark reality the regime has to face is that it never had, nor does it have, the right to rule our country. We have no alternative but to expose the Nationalist Party (NP) for the political fraud that it is.

This is a party that represents a tiny racist minority. Even amongst the white population, it represents a small fraction of the white electorate.

The historical truth is that the NP has no moral authority to govern the country. The delay of agreeing to the CA and Interim government can only prolong our long march to a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa.

The current violence sweeping our country is a desperate attempt by the regime to save itself from total destruction by people's power.

Untold suffering and harm is caused to whole communities with consequent hardening of attitudes towards each other, thereby bringing about a culture of hatred.

The undying desire for a CA and an interim government will continue to move millions of the oppressed to united mass action for people's power.

The road might be long and hard, but victory is certain.