

# PHAMBILI EDITORIAL

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## CHANGES IN THE BALANCE OF FORCES

SINCE publication of the April edition of *PHAMBILI*, there have been important shifts in the balance of forces in Southern Africa. The pace of events is so rapid both in the region as a whole and inside our country that it is often difficult to decipher and interpret the significance of many of these events.

The Angolan/Namibian conflict is one such situation. The rapid changes in this area are so profound, that our analysis often has difficulty keeping up. Why has South Africa come to the negotiating table; What is the significance of PW Botha's diplomatic offensive in Africa; is the regime serious about implementing independence in Namibia under UN resolution 435; is UNITA about to be crushed or is it about to become part of a 'government of National Unity' in Angola? *PHAMBILI* carries a detailed and careful analysis of the forces at work in the Angolan situation, to enable comrades to go beyond the superficial and often confusing reports which we read in the commercial press.

At the level of world forces, too, established patterns are changing with amazing rapidity. All over the world, the eyes of progressive humanity are on developments in the Soviet Union. How do we understand the development of glasnost and perestroika in the Soviet Union, and the role of Mikhail Gorbachev in world politics? We try in this edition to give some insight into internal developments in the Soviet Union. We also reproduce Gorbachev's interesting and profound comments on the situation in the Third World from his best-seller "Perestroika".

### **Broad anti-apartheid unity**

Inside our country, there are very important developments taking place that could have major implications for the course of our struggle. The historic fifth anniversary of our much-loved Front has been marked by the rapid development of the democratic movements political and moral leadership of the broad masses of our country. The process of convening a Anti-Apartheid Conference, the 3-day stayaway in June, and the COSATU special congress in

May all point to the development of a broad national anti-apartheid unity incorporating all the patriotic and freedom-loving forces in our country. *PHAMBILI* carries a special supplement analysing the development of this broad front of anti-apartheid forces.

While the forces of democracy broaden daily, the regime is becoming increasingly isolated and desperate. It is currently doing everything in its power to ram its institutions of minority rule down the people's throats. *PHAMBILI* sets the record straight on the democratic movement's attitude to the municipal elections, by publishing a paper which was widely circulated in the democratic movement, explaining why we are opposing the elections, and why the people refuse to participate.

Counterposed to the minority municipal elections, *PHAMBILI* publishes the ANC's constitutional guidelines, an initial draft of the ANC's vision for a constitution for a non-racial democratic South Africa where the people govern. Unlike the regime's constitutional concoctions, the ANC is not imposing its constitutional vision on the people, but has distributed these guidelines for discussion and revision, based on responses from us, the people of South Africa.

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## USE PHAMBILI IN YOUR ORGANISATION

*PHAMBILI* is a journal for political education and discussion. It is aimed at activists of the Front and the entire democratic movement. To get the greatest benefit from *PHAMBILI*, organisations should set up discussion groups to read and discuss the articles.

### Make the ideas in PHAMBILI available to the masses

*PHAMBILI* is not designed for mass distribution. However, the articles can be used as a basis for discussion at a mass level. One way of doing this is to translate and simplify useful articles and use these as a basis for discussion.

### Distribution of PHAMBILI is a political task.

Comrades should try to develop methods of distribution which are appropriate for the repressive conditions.