

THE PEOPLE HAVE OPENED YOUR PRISON DOORS

RALLY MESSAGE FROM JOE SLOVO, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Comrades,

On behalf of the South African Communist Party, on behalf of communists in the ranks of the working class, in the people's army, in the underground and in exile, on behalf of the thousands of SACP supporters here in this stadium today, we embrace you. We are overjoyed to welcome you back amongst our people.

Your great devotion, self-sacrifice and dedication have deeply inspired all of us over these long years. Since that fateful Rivonia raid you have been in our thoughts unendingly. Everything we have tried to do has been bound up with the desire to free you. We have always seen your liberty as inseparable from the liberation of our people and our country.

It is clear what hand has opened the prison door. It is not De Klerk's. It is not Thatcher's. The force that has liberated you is none other than the masses of our country — struggling shoulder to shoulder and supported by the worldwide anti-apartheid movement. Over the last months, in mass defiance in the streets of the towns and cities of our country, our people have been unbanning the ANC and the SACP.

It is with pride that we have seen our Party's red flag flying side by side with the black, green and gold of our national liberation movement. This symbol expresses the indestructibility of our historic alliance. It also expresses a growing desire by our working people to end not only oppression but also the exploitation of man by man. The achievement of a truly democratic South Africa remains the immediate aim shared by all of us. Such a South Africa will create conditions enabling our working people to work for a socialist future.

Comrades, as our released leaders assume their place once more in the active leadership of our revolutionary movement, history confronts us with the next crucial steps.

Let us ensure that De Klerk's tactical retreat is turned into a headlong flight. Let us ensure that the regime is unable to move back in good order to the next set of apartheid trenches. The situation demands an all-round intensification of struggle.

Above all, let us ensure that our victory, which is now ripening and within reach, does not turn out to be a hollow fruit. To this end we must ensure the ever more active mobilisation and political organisation of our country's working class. It is a class which, in its millions, stands in the forefront of the struggle for a unified, non-racial South Africa; a South Africa in which democracy will be brought about to its fullest extent.

The alliance of the working class with those on the land and all other patriotic forces will undoubtedly fulfil the finest collective aspirations of our whole nation. It is this unity expressed in the revolutionary alliance, headed by the ANC and embracing organised workers and the whole mass democratic movement, which will put an end to racism in all its forms.

Comrades, in the crucial months ahead we shall be greatly strengthened by the presence of our released leaders in our midst.

Together let us spare no effort in the struggle to release our comrade Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners.

**Long Live the African National Congress! Long Live the SACP!
Long Live our Unbreakable Revolutionary Alliance! Victory is Certain!**



There can be no question of us unilaterally abandoning the armed struggle. Our duty is to intensify the struggle. We cannot relax on the basis of mere statements. We must concentrate on building mass organisations and working-class leadership in our struggle for freedom ... By eradicating apartheid, we will be contributing to peace at home and to world peace. We dedicate our lives to this.

Walter Sisulu



The ANC deplores the division of the country into compartments based on ethnic lines. The ANC advocates one country, one nation and one central government. We need all the force at our command to dismantle apartheid.

Raymond Mhlaba



The African National Congress has always worked for unity and will continue to do so.

Wilton Mkwayi



You don't have to be a political scientist to see what the rulers are in fact aiming at. Stripped of all nice phrases, they are simply once again changing their language and style in order to perpetuate white domination ... We firmly believe that the fundamental human rights, including the language, religion and cultural heritage of all our people, will only be guaranteed by firmly entrenching individual human rights. *Ahmed Kathrada*



All proposals which do not accept the principle of one South Africa or those who seek a solution based on federal structures are sowing seeds of conflict ... (The) Alliance which was entered into by the ANC and the SACP is going to continue until apartheid, which is the source that seeks to destroy democracy in South Africa and spread its poisonous slime throughout the world, is eliminated... *Govan Mbeki*

EXTRACT FROM THE RALLY MESSAGE SENT BY PRESIDENT TAMBO

... Welcome back to active service within the collective leadership of the people's movement, the African National Congress.

As we held the fort within the National Executive Committee of your organisation and inside the command structures of Umkhonto we Sizwe, we valued immensely the comments, observations and suggestions you were able to communicate to us even while you were in prison.

Indeed, comrade leaders, we welcome you today also as a result of the committed and selfless efforts of Comrade Nelson Mandela, working quietly and energetically behind the scenes. This rally is also, in part, a tribute to that magnificent struggle by one of the longest-serving political prisoners.

Our country has arrived at a crossroad. Whatever road it follows, the destination will be, as surely as the sun rises in the East, the final and total destruction of the apartheid system.

We look forward to the day, which is not far off from now, when we shall re-join you within the country as servants of the people, to take further orders from these heroic masses as to what new tasks they give us to perform.

You, the leaders of our people, gave us a mission to go abroad, mobilise support for the struggle and return home to report to you on what we had done. Our mandate will not terminate until we have returned to give you that report, in person.

To the great masses of our people, so well represented at this rally today, we say: you know the tasks facing all of us better than anybody else. Continue to unite in action and to act in unity. Continue to be as resolute and fearless as you have been.

The apartheid system remains in place. We must make the final determined drive to abolish this crime against humanity and, like the sister people of Namibia, take the final steps to our liberation.

Compatriots, the future of our country is in our hands. At this historic moment, let us act together for freedom now. Our common victory is in sight. Revolutionary greetings to you all. **Amandla! Matla!**



I have no doubt that if it is necessary for me to go back to prison, I'll go tomorrow. I'm going to continue my political activity until we have achieved our goals. You and I have to liberate everybody. South Africa has not yet been liberated. *Andrew Mlangeni*



I would like to return to work. I'll be pleased to organise because I believe in getting close to the people. It's a great pleasure for me to see people still have confidence in me and the African National Congress. *Oscar Mpetha*



Women occupy an important place in the struggle as they mould the nation. *Elias Motsoaledi*



I still support ANC ideals fully. There is such enthusiasm in the country. It is experiencing its birth pangs. *Harry Gwala*