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UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

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The election results for the house of representatives yesterday indicates an overwhelming victory for anti-election forces. 82% of all so-called coloured voters did not participate in the election. Insofar as the election stood as a test of support for the government's constitutional changes, no amount of election trickery and percentage juggling can hide the fact that this constitution does not have the support of the people.

We in the UDF wish to thank all those people who responded to our call, including those organisations and individuals who have joined hands with us in our campaign for a mass stayaway.

The boycott victory occurred under conditions of extreme provocation and harassment. Our attempts to monitor the polls legally, using academics, was met with arrests and threats. Government and Labour Party officials are referring to intimidation as a factor in the low poll, yet they have been primarily responsible for acts of intimidation in the last 24 hours. This combined with clear evidence of the abuse of special votes and a campaign of propaganda against the UDF all constitute an election process which cannot be called free and fair.

The Minister of Law and Order has referred to the development of "a revolutionary climate". We see this as an admission on the part of the Nationalists that they are no longer able to contain the conflicts that their policies have unleashed. The elections perpetuate minority rule and the continued denationalization of the majority of South Africa's people. They offer no solution to the problems of our society.

APARTHEID DIVIDES, UDF UNITES

We therefore call for the drawing up of a new constitution which should accomodate the basic demands of all South Africans.

For this to occur the following basic preconditions need to be met-

- the release of all political prisoners;
- the unbanning of political organizations ;
- the repeal of unjust laws; and
- the return of political exiles.

The UDF was formed to oppose the new constitution. Now that it is in the process of being ushered in, our work has just begun.

UDF Publicity Secretary, Western Cape Region

Jonathan de Vries

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