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UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



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STATEMENT ON APARTHEID ELECTIONS HELD ON 28 AUGUST 1984 AND RELATED EVENTS.

Our cause is just, our unity is deep-rooted and our determination to be free is unshakeable - this is the lesson the government and the world should draw from the events of the past week. The results of the Coloured and Indian elections should remind the rulers that they can fool some of the people only some of the time, but no regime has succeeded in fooling all of the people all of the time.

The government and its surrogates have suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of the democratic movement. The massive stay-away from the polls is an expression of an unequivocal rejection of Botha's fraudulent 'reforms'. Our people have no faith in the ability of the apartheid government to act as a custodian of their rights.

83% of Indian and Coloured adults did not participate in these elections. Of over two million adults, only 350 000 voted. 1 700 000 did not vote. A lot of the people who voted, particularly the old and the very poor, did so out of fear of reprisals.

Above all, the stay-away is a demonstration of the popular support enjoyed by the UDF. Far from achieving its objective of dividing our people, the new constitution has served to build a phenomenal unity. This glorious victory is to the credit of the UDF and its affiliates. Our thanks goes to the masses of our people who bore the brunt of this campaign. In particular we extend special thanks to the Coloured and Indian communities for their courageous stance in defence of our unity and joint action.

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Presidents: Oscar Mpetha, Albertina Sisulu, Archie Gumede
Eastern Cape President: Edgar Ngoyi
Border President: Steve Tshwete

National Treasurers: Cassim Saloojee, Mewa Ramgobin
National Publicity Secretary: Mosiuoa 'Terror' Lekota
National Secretary: Popo Molefe

These gains were scored against the backdrop of intensifying police violence and repression of UDF and its affiliates. This repression is likely to increase as the government desperately attempts to win legitimacy for its new deal and the collaborators. The detention of UDF officials and activists is merely the tip of the iceberg. It must be pointed out here that the collaborating parties are accomplices in the violence meted out to our people. This is evidenced by the fact that members of both Solidarity and the National People's Party joined the police in assaulting peaceful anti-election campaigners. Are we to believe that these collaborators - who have made common cause with the enemy to this extent - would not be party to the conscription of our youth into the army?

The new constitution has been rejected by our people. The Apartheid parliamentarians have failed to obtain a mandate. We therefore demand that they do not enter parliament. The Western allies of Apartheid (in particular the Reagan Administration) should realise that their failure to condemn the Apartheid constitution makes them the enemies of the majority of our people.

Our struggle against the constitution and the Koornhof Laws has not ended. We will continue striving for the dismantling of the Black Local Authorities, the Apartheid Parliament, the Bantustans and for that matter the entire Apartheid structure. We will not rest until our people have control over their own lives.

POPO MOLEFE
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