

REVOLUTIONARIES MAY STAMP THEIR FEET.  
THE COMMUNISTS MAY SCREAM THEIR LIES.  
OUR ENEMIES MAY TRY TO UNDERMINE US.  
BUT HERE IS THE REALITY.

Last Friday I opened Parliament with a speech that will have a profound effect on all our lives. I know for a fact that it hasn't made everyone happy. Quite frankly, that's good. Because I know the people who are the unhappiest. Those who'd rather have bloody battles than peaceful negotiation. Those who'd like to see us capitulate. Those who'd take over this country for their own selfish and cruel ideological ends.

Well, they can shout. They can criticise. They can refuse to acknowledge my sincerity. But, my friends, try as they might, they can't deny reality.

And the reality is this.

MY GOVERNMENT AND I ARE COMMITTED TO POWER SHARING.

We are committed to equal opportunity for all. Equal treatment. And equal justice. Some will say that is rhetoric. Well, consider the facts. Already the offensive racial provisions of the immorality act have been repealed. Job reservations have been removed. Sport is open to all, as are trade unions.

Those who want to seize power shout that apartheid lives. Well, those who want to share power say that it is dying. That is reality.

I said that no South African will be excluded from full political rights. That they should participate both in Government and the future of this country through their elected leaders. This is now reality. The proposed National Statutory Council is not just a forum for the talkers. It is the first step towards institutionalised power sharing. Where black leaders can now have a voice in central Government and under my chairmanship make a positive contribution to the running of this country.

That is reality.

I said we were committed to a single education policy. I have already created a department to achieve this. Not millions, but billions are being and will be poured into a programme that will mean equal education for all.

That is reality.

I said human dignity must be advanced and any affront to it eliminated. I also realise that the pass system was seen as a major stumbling block. Well, I can tell you the pass system will be scrapped by July 1 this year. What's more a common identity document will be issued to everybody as is the case in other countries. In the near future existing influx control measures will be abolished in favour of a system of urbanization that applies to all South Africans. Our policy is one of encouraging development. Not controlling movement.

That is reality.

My speech included other points that will certainly have an effect on our lives. I don't intend to stop here. Progress is on-going. But my Government and I are dedicated to it. I know there are some who say I should have gone further. Let them rest assured, I will go further. The wheel of reform is turning. South Africa will never hand this country over to those who would see it destroyed, to those under the misapprehension that solutions lie in anarchy.

Friends, fellow South Africans, that is the reality.

Anyone who thinks otherwise is wrong.

Peace and prosperity will come about for those who are with us. And despite those who are against us.

From my heart I ask you to share in the future. To share in the new South Africa.

P.W. Botha  
State President