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THE CITIZEN

Indian Congress again slams DP over poll

By Sapa, Poen de Villiers and Bert van Hees

THE Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) yesterday continued its attack on the Democratic Party, accusing DP co-leader, Dr Zach de Beer, of having "clouded vision" because the party is fielding candidates in the House of Delegates.

"The fact that the Democratic Party has chosen to field nine candidates has been a point of sharp difference between them and the Mass Democratic Movement.

"They are essentially interested in their own interests," said Mr Cas Sa-

loojee, president of the TIC.

Mr Saloojee added that the DP had its own interests at heart and had not recognised the beliefs of the "masses".

The TIC leader continued the attack at a seminar yesterday held at the Gandhi-Hall in Lenasia.

Dealing with the general situation, Mr Saloojee said the pressures for change were becoming what he described as irremediable.

There were many manifestations, he said, of the ineffectiveness of the state of emergency. This included the "unstoppable" rise of the labour movement and increased political action despite restrictions.

"The system has the capacity to stifle, but it will never win. But if you want a low inflation rate, a higher growth rate and a strong rand, you must improve relations with the outside world. At long last people are dropping the pretence that sanctions affect the lower people."

On the question of negotiations, MDM leader Mr Murphy Morobe said: "We have to prevent the situation where the masses will be demobilised, where we will be transfixed, where we will not be able to continue with the struggle to pressure the authorities."

The government forces, he said, wanted to prevent fundamental change.

The Democratic Movement and the oppressed saw negotiations as twin instruments for transferring political power from the white minority regime to the majority.

The Democratic Party would lose a few seats to the National Party in the general election because of the call last week by the MDM to White voters to stay away from the polls, Dr Zach de Beer, DP co-leader said yesterday.

Dr De Beer could not say which or how many DP seats were in danger of being lost if White supporters of the MDM boycotted the election.

He added, however, that a stayaway could have an effect on DP seats with narrow majorities.

Dr De Beer, said in 1987, when a similar call was made to voters to stay away, the Progressive Federal Party claimed it had lost Hillbrow and Wynberg because of this action.

"In that election the PFP did not have any candidates in the Coloured and Indian houses," he added.

Asked if he wanted to make a call to Whites to vote, he indicated he did not agree with the MDM's call to voters to boycott the election of either of the three houses. "Everybody should vote," he said, "and if I must make a call to the voters, it is for them to vote for the DP."

"The DP is giving a chance to as many South Africans as possible to vote for a democratic South Africa."

The MDM's call was last night described by Dr Denis Worrall as "regrettable and a mistake in strategy".

Dr Worrall, co-leader of the Democratic Party, told The Citizen the DP shared and overlapped with the MDM on many fundamental objectives, "but we have our own agenda and will act accordingly".

He said the MDM's call was "regrettable" as there was change at the moment in White public opinion, and that a "hung Parliament" had become a very real possibility.

"This is good, because it means a political realignment and a new policy," he said.

Urging the White electorate to go to the polls, Dr Worrall said most people realised that the country could not afford another five years of inflationary costs, rising food prices, crippling taxation and corruption.

(Report by Bert van Hees, 73 Strand Street, Cape Town; N Lewis, 141 Commissioner Street Johannesburg; and P de Villiers, 28 Height Street, Doornfontein, Johannesburg.)