

October 26: Is it free and fair?

The government is going all out to make the October municipal elections a success.

It has banned the UDF and SAYCO, and has restricted COSATU and several UDF leaders like Albertina Sisulu and Dr RAM Salojee. Thousands are in detention under the State of Emergency.

It is not tolerating any opposition to the elections and has declared that any call for a boycott is illegal under emergency regulations.

Despite this, the NIC is challenging this regulation in court. In papers before the supreme court, the NIC states that it will campaign for a boycott of the October 26 elections if the challenge is successful.

The government somehow thinks that by spending R5-million to promote its propaganda on SABC and adverts, it can fool people into thinking that the elections are free and fair.

Congress rejects the government's local authorities

and management committees. We believe that these management committees extend the tri-cameral constitution to the local level of government.

Like the tri-cameral parliament, these management committees entrench white domination and control, and perpetuate ethnic and racial structures.

They will not address the day to day problems of our people, like housing and basic community facilities.

Congress is concerned that the government will close its eyes to the secretive prior votes abuses.

The forces of apartheid will also attempt to sow division within our community. We must reject those who try and cause division between Hindu, Muslim and Christian. We must reject those who try and cause division between Gujarati, Tamil and Hindi. We must reject those who try and cause division between Indian, Coloured and African.

Fight the Group Areas Bills!

Congress is launching a campaign to resist five bills to be passed by parliament when it reconvenes on August 22. The bills are the Squatting and Slums Bills, and the three Group Areas Bills.

The bills are designed to punish the homeless. Conservative estimates suggest that more than 5-million people are homeless in South Africa.

Many are forced to live in squatter camps, or defy Group Areas and live in 'white' areas like Hillbrow and Mayfair.

Instead of providing houses to those in need, the government intends to make homelessness a criminal offence. It intends to:

- Reintroduce influx control.
- Remove and evict people.
- Break down houses.
- Jail people for five years or fine them R10 000 if they live in the 'wrong' group area.

Congress believes that these bills are inhumane and must be opposed.

These bills expose the so-called reforms of the

National Party.

Indian and Coloured collaborators promised to scrap Group Areas through their participation in the tri-cameral parliament.

The Nats intend to bulldoze these bills through the President's Council if Indian and Coloured MPs oppose any of these bills. This shows up the ineffectiveness of the participation strategy, which is nothing but collaboration with apartheid.

Worse still is the fact that Indian and Coloured MPs have actually supported some of these bills.

The House of Delegates has continually supported removals, as well as the Squatting Bill.

It has also supported the Labour Relations Amendment Act, which sparked off the three-day stayaway on June 6, 7 and 8.

Congress is of the view that the dismal record of the Indian and Coloured MPs proves that they are merely brown members of the National Party.

They are duty-bound to resign if the Group Areas Bills are passed by the tri-cameral system.

Stop the Group Areas Bill!
Stop the Squatting and
Slums Bill!
