

# LET US HASTEN THE PROCESS

As whites flocked to the polling booths on May 6, the state of emergency, the most severe in the thirty nine years of apartheid rule, was and still is in full force. Racist soldiers and police are still roaming our townships killing and maiming scores of people. Botha's vigilantes are still on the rampage, wreaking death and destruction to lives and property. Tens of thousands of people, among them thousands of children, are daily facing gruesome torture in the tyrant's detention cells. Black unemployment stands at over four million.

Destabilisation and aggression against the frontline states continue unabated. In fact, the recent raid in Livingstone, a town in southern Zambia, which left four innocent Zambians massacred in cold blood, was a confidence-building measure in the NP's electioneering campaign. Therefore the landslide victory of the National Party in the elections means that the white electorate has endorsed Botha's minority rule, the state of emergency and all the crimes we have listed above. And they are just a small fraction of the crimes committed by the boer regime for, indeed as one observer noted, if we were to compile all their crimes into a single charge sheet, the Bible would be dwarfed into a pocket notebook.

We the oppressed have and always will view the boer parliament as an instrument of oppression, a vehicle for legislating white privilege and repression, detentions, torture and massacres for the black majority. To us the May 6 election was as irrelevant as all those proceeding it. To use the words of Comrade Joe Slovo "this election is seen as yet another obscene racist ritual." We realised decades ago that our lot will not be improved in parliamentary debates in

racist parliament. Hence the racist elections were for us another occasion to express our anger at white minority rule as witnessed in the massive response to the stay-away call on May 5 and 6. Umkhonto we Sizwe the people's army also registered its presence with bombs, limpet and landmine explosions.

## RESULTS

With regard to the results of the elections, appraised as a swing to the right mainly because of the losses suffered by the PFP and the gains scored by Treurnicht's Conservative Party, it is necessary to point out that they indicated further deepening of the political crisis gripping apartheid rule. Even before the elections the ruling National Party was rocked by divisions hitherto unknown in its four decades of rule. Staunch National Party MP's like Wynand Malan and leading academicians deserted the National Party.

The ultra right Conservative Party and the Herstigte Nasionale Party failed hopelessly to present an election front as they had intended earlier. Witwatersrand and Cape Town universities, both mainly white universities banned election speakers from their campuses. They were later to be joined by other white universities in becoming hot battle-grounds as the campuses were invaded by police who were out to ruthlessly suppress anti-election campaigns waged by the universities. It is worth noting that all university students, age wise, qualify for registration as voters.

The Independents, far from left as they are, presented the NP with a challenge not to be ignored. Wynand Malan defeated the NP candidate by votes, while Deniis Worrall lagged behind Chris Heunis, the Cape leader of the NP by only 39 votes. Dr. Esther Lategan, another Independent, lost by a mere votes.

It is true that though these divisions within the white power block and resignations from the NP indicate the growing crisis or white rule, and therefore add an advantage to the revolution, they are as yet not far-reaching. Many whites, though realising that Botha is leading them into a dark abyss out of which they will never emerge, still desperately search for answers within the confines of white politics. They pretend not to have realised what Slabbert and Boraine did, that no change can be worked for within the white parliament.

Some still remain prisoners of racism as seen in their moving in the direction of open fascism like the AWB. Others, though still a tiny minority, have seen the truth that they can only contribute meaningfully to finding a solution to the problems of our country by joining, in struggle, the oppressed black majority. These have found their way to the democratic movement whilst the most advanced have joined the African National Congress and the people's army Umkhonto we Sizwe.

This crisis the Botha regime is facing has been brought about by our struggle. The intensification of the war on all fronts with particular emphasis on taking the war to the white areas, will result in the deepening of this crisis even further, ultimately resulting in the collapse of the boere regime like, as Joe Slovo says, a structure built on sand. Let us hasten that process.