

# I SPEAK MY MIND

## On the Fascist Republic

GLADSTONE MOROKA

It is impossible to think of the twenty years of the boer Republic of South Africa outside the context of more than three centuries of unremitted dispossession, oppression and struggle.

If in these 20 years the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and Tourist Information language has been of "a rapid increase of the prosperity, economy and production potential" and sunny South Africa respectively, to millions of my fellow countrymen the same coin has a totally different face. We know of 20 more years of Dimbasas, Crossroads and forced mass removals to barren, poverty-stricken 'resettlement areas' or 'homelands' - 20 years of super-exploitation, compound life away from loved ones and children dying of malnutrition.

These 20 years have seen the dark cloud of fascism engulf our land as the Nationalist government became increasingly dictatorial and repressive against all who oppose its policies. These two decades are synonymous with more than 50,000 lives which have been 'officially' murdered and sacrificed by the fascist regime at the alter of white supremacy and foreign capital.

There is nothing that warrants celebration in 20 years of repression. But the blood shed as a supreme sacrifice in racist dungeons, in strikes, boycott action and military operations has not been in vain. Never has South Africa witnessed such political and military ferment since the fighting 50s. The level of our people's mass struggle, led by their vanguard movement, the African National Congress, is a crystal clear indication of the inevitable destruction of the Apartheid Republic and the establishment of a t r u l l y democratic republic based on the Freedom Charter.

AFRIKA NKWE

Let us look into what this republic has achieved in the last 20 years of its existence. What are these achievements the boers are making hysterical noise about? They proudly claim that South Africa is the agricultural giant in Africa, yet thousands of our children are dying of malnutrition. In fact they made an error here, they wanted to say South Africa is the malnutrition giant in Africa.

Today, the South African black workers are all out demanding higher wages, better working and living conditions, better housing; the students are out in the dusty streets demanding equal and compulsory education for all races; our mothers are demanding low house rents and low prices of basic consumer goods - in short, these are the 'achievements' of the two decades old republic.

Worst of all is the cholera 'achievement', despite all the claims by the racists that they have the best medical facilities in the whole of Africa and that they are rated amongst the medically developed countries in the world, why then cholera in South Africa? The answer to these questions is very simple and clear: this is part of the 'achievements' of the boer republic of which the fascists are preparing to celebrate in a v e r y b i g w a y . They are to celebrate their domination over us in the past twenty years.

The two decades of the Republic of the boers have been bitter o n e s for our people. In one word the achievements of the boer republic mean misery to our people. Umkhonto we Sizwe was born to destroy once and for all the boer republic. So, the continued existence of this fascist republic poses a great challenge to us combatants of the People's Army to confront the enemy in all fronts, especially in this historic Year of the Youth. We of the people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, must raise our level of discipline and commitment to terrific heights as part of our offensive against the retreating enemy.

## **FREEDOM MKHWANAZI**

Let us be aware that this commemoration more than anything is a living testimony of the exploitative forces at work in South Africa and the profits thereof, without which the story could have been different. In a word this undertaking is not only aimed at reviving white interest in the system but also to assure the West that South Africa is still a safe haven for investments - it is still their polecat in the Southern Hemisphere.

In human terms 20 years of life normally introduces a new life stage, that of manhood and maturity. Not so with the South African regime. In fact, to us that it even was able to survive so long (bearing in mind that our oppression is now 329 years old) is a living reality of the deep economic and military support of the Western countries, at the head of which looms the United Kingdom and the US. Just like a spoilt baby of the West which it is, this regime is treated with c a r e and attention to the extent that even in internation-

i bodies such as the UN, it still enjoys diplomatic accreditation and immunity stemming from its membership of this world body. Even the language of reason at this late hour for this sick regime, the language of economic sanctions, cultural and political isolation and arms embargo proposed by men of conscience in the UN has proven either as some form of quasi language to be mumbled only and not implemented, or some pretentious 'lingua franca' for obvious diplomatic purposes for the Western countries and even to some states with veto powers like the US and the UK, this has proven to be no language at all.

The world can still recall Margaret Thatcher, hardly having found the corridors of power in Britain, declaring in her visit to the United States: "We have to take South Africa out of the cold." Not long President Reagan was just reminiscing about the two World Wars and promising South Africa all the help it requires. It is because of this that the fascists are celebrating their 20th anniversary. All their acts of banditry find encouragement in the active involvement of these states in the militarisation, computerisation and nuclearisation of this state. Obviously if there is to be any meaningful celebration on the part of the racist it will not happen without the active connivance of the imperialist powers.

The Editor of "Die Beeld" did not forget to add "May Ian Smith's UDI rule of a thousand years pull us back to reality." This is the spirit, though it is late. Led by the African National Congress and its allies, we will witness this fascist celebration as the same celebration Hitler, Mussolini, Shah Pahlavi, Haile Selassie, Batista and Pol Pot had no opportunity to attend. It comes at a time when our imminent victory is high in the agenda of a victorious strategy for Southern African liberation. Indeed it is not without any course that our movement termed this decade - **"THE DECADE OF LIBERATION."**

#### **HUMPHREY CHAUKE**

It is true that the 'Republic' of South Africa is twenty years old. This republic was proclaimed on the 31st May, 1961 by the Nationalist Party. This year, the racist Nationalist Party and its supporters will be celebrating their 'Republiek van Suid Afrika' with their flags flying high on the graves of the millions of Africans, Coloureds and Indians. They are celebrating this republic when more than three million Blacks have been 'sentenced to death' through unemployment and hunger. They are celebrating this year when millions of our people have been incarcerated in the camps of humiliation,

diseases, hunger and death in the so-called 'independent homelands'. They are also celebrating this year of the 20th anniversary of our oppression when our people have pledged more than ever before, to fight for the breaking of the chains of bondage.

When the boers in 1961 decided to declare South Africa a republic, our people said "NO". This "NO" had a lot of meaning both to the oppressed people and the racists themselves. This was a "NO" to centuries of oppression and humiliation, slavery and death. To the fascists this "NO" was expressing their inability to rule the oppressed.

The 20th anniversary of the fascist republic to us means the 20th anniversary of the armed war of liberation. We shall remember that the year when the republic of South Africa was declared, the people of our country declared armed struggle on the racist illegal Pretoria government. Our people have long displayed to the Pretoria fascists that they are totally not prepared to be ruled in the same old way by a government founded on injustice and inequality.

This is why the disciples of Hitler are aiming at making this year a year of mobilisation for the Nationalist Party & of weighing the support they enjoy amongst the white community. This is because the Nationalist Party has suffered a drop in its support and even divisions are vividly clear to every white voter. This year the racists will be attempting to mend these cracks. There has also been a remarkable increase of support for our struggle amongst whites. This has created a sense of uncertainty within the ruling clique.

The tactics of the boers to divide the Africans from other sections of the oppressed has failed dismally. The failure of the boers to suppress the students' demands, the failure of the 'Presidential circus' and many other failures have made them to dedicate this year to the mobilisation of the white community. Needless to mention is the crisis they are faced with in their army. Cases of mutiny, desertion, etc., have become the order of the day.

This year will mark a new stage in the advancement of the revolutionary transformation of South Africa. Our movement has declared 1981 the Year of the Youth. The youth of our country will make sure that whatever attempt the boers are trying to make in retarding the winds of change in South Africa will fail. Instead of becoming a festive year this will prove to be the mournful year for the boers.

**DOWN WITH THE BOER REPUBLIC!**