

and no UDF activist can stand as a candidate.

Conclusion

The campaign against the municipal elections is not the only one facing the mass democratic movement this year. It is however, one of the most important ones. It is important because the state hopes to drag itself out of its political crisis especially in the oppressed communities.

It is also important because like in the past, our people should use this challenge to move to higher levels of organisation. We have correctly identified bodies of minority rule as a weak link in the apartheid chain. We therefore, need to concentrate our energies into this area and frustrate the state in its attempts to rationalise our oppression. Objective conditions are favourable for us to use the October elections to further deepen the crisis facing minority rule.. What we need is to re-organise ourselves and grab this opportunity to move forward.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

STATEMENT BY CHURCH LEADERS ON THE OCTOBER MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, JUNE 29 1988

We, the undersigned Church leaders, meeting in Johannesburg on 29 June, have consulted together about the serious issues raised for South Africans in connection with the local authority elections for City and Town councils, Town and Local Authority Committees, on 26 October 1988.

1. We have noted that:

1.1. The Councils elected on that day will provide the basis for an electoral college to choose nine persons to sit on the new national council which we reject as being undemocratic and unable to produce just or representative constitutional proposals;

1.2. These elections cannot be free or fair as they take place under the stringent restrictions of the State of Emergency;

1.3. Many of the leaders of the people are prevented from deciding whether or not to stand for election because they are in detention and the people's organisations are banned;

1.4. The issues cannot be properly debated because the emergency restrictions prevent any person from urging a boycott of the elections or propagating non-participation;

1.5. This statement of ours cannot be published in South Africa or sent from South Africa by correspondents under the emergency regulations;

1.6. We are committing an offence in terms of the emergency regulations by issuing this statement.

2. Nevertheless:

2.1. We are committed to standing for the truth in the light of the Gospel;

2.2. We believe that Christians cannot accept structures of racial discrimination which violate human rights. The structures of the constitutional system in South Africa are based on racial and ethnic identity. These structures constitute the apartheid system which we have declared to be evil and sinful and its theological justification a heresy.

3.3. Therefore:

3.1. We cannot participate in the elections and we call on all Christians not to participate in the implementation of their own oppression or the oppression of others, either by voting on 26 October or by standing for election.

4. We declare our intention to:

4.1. Communicate this decision to our church courts and congregations so as to enable the fullest possible open debate so that people may arrive at an informed and responsible decision;

4.2. Ignore the emergency restrictions that require our church news network to register as news agencies and to use them and all other means at our disposal, to make these decisions known;

5. The truth cannot be bound by unjust laws.

We have committed ourselves to non-violent direct action, and if necessary, to civil disobedience, in order to bring about justice and peace and to work for the Kingdom of God.