

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UDF UNITESI APARTHEID DIVIDES!



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UDF CHALLENGES PW BOTHA ON OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The official opening of the 1988 parliamentary session this year marks 40 years of National Party misrule and mismanagement of the economy. The pomp and ceremony of the minority parliament disguises a history of corrosion of the rights of South Africans by sheer brute force. And the hotch potch of the expensive new architecture mirrors the hotch potch of those who rule inside - because all those who gather there are the few who collect to suppress the will of the majority.

PRESIDENT BOTHA, THE ECONOMY IS IN CRISIS!

South Africa, in its second year of State of Emergency repression, is sinking into economic crisis. The level of unemployment has reached alarming proportions. Millions are faced with starvation as no alternative means of subsistence is available to our people. We challenge you, Mr Botha to look for answers to this problem as millions of taxpayer's rands are pumped into defence and security. Your armies are abroad while at home the people starve.

The high failure rates of black matriculants will swell the ranks of the unemployed to even greater proportions. Total mismanagement of the potential wealth and resources of our country by Botha and his small band of friends has led to the decline of the standard of living of our people. Inflation eats away our wage -packets. And instead of creating more jobs, reducing the level of inflation, Botha's government - with the full backing of the giant corporations - is poised to suppress the trade union rights of workers with the proposed Labour Relations Bill.

PRESIDENT BOTHA, OUR PEOPLE HAVE NO HOUSES, SHELTER OR LAND!

The oppressed communities are still faced with an acute shortage of housing. Botha's appeal to his financial backers has so far only resulted in placing houses far beyond the reach of the working people of South Africa.

And when we seek alternative shelter in shacks and by squatting the government responds by demolition and forced removals. Forty years on the apartheid monster still subjects oppressed communities to forced removal, and the hungry calls of the rural people for land remain unanswered.

PRESIDENT BOTHA, THE JAILS OF APARTHEID ARE FULL!

Thousands of oppressed South Africans fill the jails of apartheid in a attempt to keep us in perpetual bondage.

Presidents: Albertina Sisulu,
Archie Gumede
Executive chairperson: Curnick Ndlovu

National Treasurer: Aznar Cachalia
National Publicity Secretary: Mosiuoa Terror Lekota
National Secretary: Popo Molefe

Wave after wave of state terror against our people has been the answer of the Nationalists to the demands of the majority for political rights. President Botha, do not talk of negotiations when the leaders of the people of this country are in jail.

We know and you know that you will be shadow-boxing when you refer to negotiations with black leaders in your speech. Release Morobe, Molobi, and Mandela, Mr Botha! Let Govan Mbeki speak and move freely, Mr Botha!

Mr Botha, our demand for the release of political prisoners is linked to the resolution of the crisis of our country. Mr Botha, we challenge you to fulfill your historical destiny and take serious steps towards ending the conflict in this country:

- * Lift the State of Emergency
- * Start taking steps towards the creation of a free political climate
- * Release all political prisoners, detainees and apartheid trialists unconditionally
- * Unban the ANC and all silenced organisations
- * Allow the exiles of apartheid to return
- * Withdraw the SADF and SAP from the occupied territories, townships and villages
- * Dismantle the apartheid vigilantes and death squads
- * Repeal all restrictive laws

Mr Botha, until you start meeting the demands of the people, all talk of negotiations and reform will have no basis in reality. Fine words will ring hollow and empty in the halls of parliament until the necessary steps are taken to place the people there.

UDF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE