

Congress Militant

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Paper of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the ANC

Vote ANC for a better life for all ... Campaign for jobs, houses and peace ...

Kick out the Nats!

IN JUST over two months the Nats will be kicked out of power. In April the masses will have the chance to get rid of the NP and its corruption.

The NP is now trying to remove all the bloody stains from its past record. It is posing as a party of democracy and prosperity. But their list of candidates shows what a

lie this is.

It is topped by ministers like Pik Botha and Hernus Kriel, who for years presided over apartheid. Then there are the *Witdoek* leaders -

Ngxobongwana and Mali Hoza, who did the Nats' dirty work for them in the Cape townships.

The Nat's system of apartheid was responsible for keeping the majority of our people in slavery.

In their dying days as a government, the NP have exposed how hollow and false their 'democratic' credentials are. They stand idly by as the ultra-right sabotage railway

tracks and electricity pylons and bomb ANC and union offices.

Right-wing terror

Terre' Blanche threatens to plunge the country into "total war". He boasts that "more explosions will occur".

This government, as Nelson Mandela says,

"are a pathetic collection of weaklings who are unable to take any decisive action to protect the interests of the people."

Both he and Cosatu have warned that the movement will retaliate if right-wing attacks continue.

No-one is going to rob us of our election victory at the last minute. We have waited 300 years for

the right of everyone to vote.

The time has come for us to put the NP where it belongs - in the dustbin of history.

The elections give us the chance to crush the party of apartheid and dictatorship. Every vote must be used to close the door on the old South Africa.

Now is the time!

Hamba Kahle Comrade Barayi

Comrade Elijah Barayi was elected the first president of Cosatu in 1985 at the age of 55.

He joined the ANC in 1961 during the Defiance Campaign.

From 1960 he worked on the mines and became one of the first workers to join the NUM in 1981. In 1982 he was elected NUM vice-president.

At the founding rally

of Cosatu comrade Barayi warned NP president, PW Botha, to scrap the pass laws within six months or Cosatu would call for a mass pass burning campaign.

Comrade Barayi will be remembered as a workers' leader who fought in the interest of his class against oppression and exploitation.



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Editorial

End of Inkatha?

Inkatha has exposed itself as a bloody force campaigning against the interests of the majority of South Africans. Buthelezi wants to prevent people from breaking free from centuries of racial oppression. He wants to rob Zulu working people of their hard won right to vote.

At the time when the oppressed are looking with hope to the first one-person-one-vote elections Buthelezi wants a boycott. He threatens to disrupt elections in alliance with parties of the far-right and plunge SA into a bloodbath. This is in spite of the concessions made by the ANC - including the reported willingness of the ANC leadership to consider a two-ballot system.

The truth is the IFP fears democratic elections. Repeatedly polls show that they have only about 5% support nationally. The IFP is in third place even in Natal. The election result would bury forever the myth that the IFP enjoys popular support.

Whatever decision the IFP takes, ultimately they are faced with ruin. If they boycott they will be isolated and excluded from the new government. If they participate their lack of support will be exposed.

It is even possible that the IFP may split. Some central committee members want to contest elections, even without Buthelezi! Most IFP supporters want to vote!

Since the 1970s Inkatha has been used by Big Business as a battering ram against working-class unity. The bosses hoped it would become a strong, conservative ethnic party, creating divisions and stopping the ANC from winning a clear majority. Now they have deserted it.

Under the protection of the NP it always relied on violence, directed from its base in the KwaZulu state, to enforce 'support'. Hostels are still used as barracks from which to attack communities where ANC support is strong.

The IFP works closely with racists in the SAP and SADF. Its outrage at the ISU's withdrawal from Katshehlong and Thokoza confirms their alliance with these thugs.

In Natal's rural areas Buthelezi uses the 'authority' of the King and the chiefs to control people. He demands recognition of the monarchy in the new constitution. But agreeing to this would mean accepting an unelected, undemocratic institution responsible for the continued oppression of women and youth.

The IFP has no political programme that can win mass support. That is why they will resort to intimidation - either to try and disrupt the election or to force people to vote IFP. Already, they are training assassins at Umfolozi. Recently a group of them was deployed at Port Shepstone to enforce an Inkatha-imposed curfew.

Who can take seriously an organisation in alliance with the AVF and AWB - with racists who have bombed ANC offices and attacked ordinary blacks?

Strategy for defending elections

If we are going to get a two-thirds majority the ANC and Cosatu must make plans now to defend people during the election campaign and on the days of the election.

The ANC should demand that:

- The TEC immediately closes down IFP and right-wing military camps.
 - The KwaZulu and Bop police should be dissolved.
 - Government funds to Buthelezi and Mangope be cut.
- These demands should be backed with mass mobilisation.

In Natal the ANC's election campaign is lagging behind. The campaign here must concentrate on popularising the plans in the RDP. If the oppressed masses in Natal are confident that an ANC government will carry out reforms promised in the *Manifesto* they will be more determined to break free from the stranglehold of Inkatha shackles and chiefs.

In the townships, election committees must be set up and street meetings revived. Cosatu must be involved in all our plans. On election day we should organise people to go to vote in groups. In areas where intimidation is expected mass marches should be organised to the polling booths, with proper protection.

The National Peace Keeping Force will not be able to keep peace in all areas during the elections. Community-based Peace Corps need to be set up urgently. They should include self-defence units and be accountable to the community. The ANC must demand that they be recognised by the TEC and given arms strictly for the purpose of self-defence.

Election round-up:

Two months left to bury the NP



Every vote counts! Every comrade an election organiser! Campaign for a two thirds majority! Send reports to: Congress Militant, P.O.Box 596, Newtown, 2113, Johannesburg

Use your last bullet!

Some researchers already show that the ANC can win the elections by 70%. The question is how can we make sure this happens? What will stop the people from voting on that day?

1. People will not vote because they do not know how.

2. Violence may stop some people.

3. Some will think if the ANC is going to win they need not go to the polling station.

To overcome these problems we must make sure that every comrade is prepared to be a volunteer for democracy.

We must sell the ANC to the people, and make sure that we reach every voter who is undecided to convince them to vote ANC. If we can do that I am optimistic the ANC can get 85%.

We must convince people to vote for one liberation movement. If we are divided let us watch out for the NP-DP-IFP combination.

Let's be realistic. Everyone must know that the last bullet to remove the NP regime is your vote. Make your cross (X) next to the ANC.

By an ANC election organiser, Khayelitsha

Recruiting in the Reef hostels

Johannesburg East ANC has recruited more than 600 new members since the election campaign began.

Most join at street tables on Saturdays. People literally queue up to join.

The biggest breakthrough has been recruiting workers in the local hostels - Eskom, PPC, Haggie Rand.

30 joined from Primrose Gold Mine in the same week that many of them were affected by a leak of cyanide gas. Many more are expected to follow them.

The branch's biggest problem is some of the

other hostels in the area - Jeppe, Denver and George Goch - which are dominated by Inkatha. Their reign of terror makes open ANC work virtually impossible.

Their intimidation has spread to surrounding areas of Jeppetown and Belgravia. In December an Actstop tenants' activist was shot dead, allegedly by Inkatha gunmen hired by a slum landlord.

But the branch is determined to campaign in these areas. We will not be intimidated.

ANC member
Johannesburg East

We fight them on the beaches

In December most of our constituency goes to Monwabisi beach. Before our campaign there was violence on the beaches. When we arrived the election campaign was the focus.

We know that the majority in Khayelitsha will vote ANC. Central to our plans is to make sure that people know how to vote and get to the polls. Then Khayelitsha will be delivered to the ANC. This is what motivates us.

Our campaign at the beach was very exciting. People enjoyed it. We did mock elections over and over. A lot of questions were asked. A group of

Moslems wanted to know if the ANC will take their businesses. We said No! Coloureds asked if under the ANC there will be a change in their lives as well. We said Yes! Vote for the ANC because we have a Reconstruction Programme.

Domestic workers are being intimidated to vote DP. We had to emphasise the secrecy of the vote.

We met people from Transkei, Natal and farms outside Cape Town. They were all impressed. We gave them material and exchanged addresses. A video was made of the event.

By ANC volunteers,
Khayelitsha

NUM calls for migrant workers to be given SA citizenship

As elections draw closer thousands of migrant workers who want to vote are being refused SA identity documents. Congress Militant received a letter from a comrade in Bophutatswana concerning this problem. He writes:

"I have been an ANC supporter since I was in Zimbabwe. So right now I am staying in Boputhatswana and want to vote in the coming elections.

"There are thousands of foreigners who are in Bop and according to what I see these thousands of people are not going to vote because they don't have IDs.

"I am one of those people. I need help to go through this problem so that I can show the light to other friends and other thousands who do not have IDs.

"All these people are here to stay and stay for good. Some of them are married. Some have more than 15 years but no ID."

At its Congress in February the NUM passed a resolution to the TEC demanding that migrant workers who had helped create South Africa's wealth over decades should have the right to vote. They pointed out that white migrants are granted citizenship after five years, whereas blacks are still classified as contract workers.

Congress Militant supports this resolution. We call on comrades in ANC and COSATU to pass similar resolutions in your branches.

ANC Political Prisoners still behind bars

"I gave my life to fight apartheid. I have been a political prisoner for eight years. I will be very sad if I cannot cast my vote to bury apartheid. My message to voters is 'Don't trust De Klerk.'"

This is the message of one of the more than 20 ANC political prisoners at Leeuwkop Maximum Security prison. These comrades are still behind bars despite several agreements reached with De Klerk that were supposed to guarantee their release.

They are at the mercy of De Klerk and the three white judges who sit on the Indemnity Council. Six months after their last application for Indemnity the Numsa Six have received a letter asking them to be patient.

All these comrades are still in prison for "offences" they committed in the struggle to free us from apartheid. Many are former death-row prisoners, and some have been behind bars since 1985.

One comrade, Joseph Koetle, is a commander of MK. His trial for the murder of a security policeman in 1987 is due to start on March 21. Even a 17-day hunger strike in January was not enough to get him free.

It is a crime that these comrades who have given so much to our struggle should still be in prison. It is an even greater crime that De Klerk has denied political prisoners the right to vote.

We call on all ANC and Cosatu branches to pass resolutions demanding their release now.

Fax your letters of protest to:
T D Rudman,
Executive Director, TEC:
(012) 325 6318

Why coloured people should NOT vote NP

Now is the time for all oppressed people to unite against the oppressors.

The Nats are going to lose in the coming elections. The Western Cape is the only region where they hope to win. This is because they think that coloured people will vote for them. I want to give some reasons why people should NOT vote for the NP:

■ If we vote for the NP Hernus Kriel will be Prime Minister for the Western Cape. This is the man that bosses depend on to beat us and break our strikes. His police has just set dogs, fired tear-gas and rubber bullets at South African Nylon Spinners workers.

■ The Nats are responsible for the huge housing backlog in our communities. A family in Mitchellsplain have been living at the back of a bakkie for more than a year. This caused the death of a

young child. This family has been on the waiting list for too long.

In Bellville South they made white Bellville attractive. They said to us

they don't have money to build houses. The last houses built in Bellville South were in 1979. This is also the situation in Bishop Lavis, Belhar, Mitchellsplain, and

Western Cape has the highest incidence of TB in the whole of SA. It can be treated if every family has access to a decent house, a living wage, a nutritious diet and a job. Our health cannot be

Atlantis. The Nats have made 7 million people homeless.

■ Our children are without teachers, classrooms are overcrowded. Nats have closed down our schools and made many teachers unemployed. They call this their rationalisation policy. In most schools our children are sitting with very few teachers, whilst so many teachers are sitting at home.

separated from our poor housing conditions. In Tafelsig, Bellville and Belhar 15 people are forced to live in two-bedroomed houses.

■ Unemployment in this country is 46%. Many coloured youth who passed matric have no future. They cannot further their studies, because there is no money. They cannot find a job because bosses are retrenching. The result is a rise in crime.

Our social problems and all the evils of apartheid lies with the NP and De Klerk.

Our future for improving our lives lies with the ANC. Nats had 46 years to do something for us, but what did they do? Why must we believe their promises now?

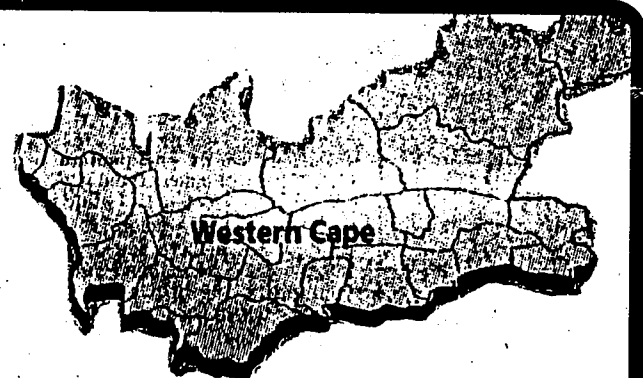
Many coloured people fear a strong ANC government.

They fear domination by blacks. **But ganging up with those who oppressed us is not the way forward.**

If we vote for the Nats, Witdoeke murderers on the NP list like Ngxobonwana and Mali Hoza will rule in the Western Cape. They are responsible for the chaos that left dozens of people dead and thousands homeless at Crossroads in 1986.

There is no reason to fear unity with the blacks in the ANC. We have suffered together in the struggle for justice and equality. We should not betray that struggle now by voting for the Nats.

Josie Abrahams
Bellville ANC
(personal capacity)



How we won our area back

A few months ago our area was dominated by the so-called Western Cape Squatters Association (Wecusa). Jerry Tutu, a local Wecusa leader who joined the PAC, is very unpopular in Khayelitsha.

Wecusa were fighting the Civics. When Tutu was in Greenpoint he used to extort money from poor people.

When the ANC branch engaged on an electrification campaign for the shack area he tried to sabotage it. He told Eskom to install electricity only in his area so that he can take credit for it.

We had to counter him. We started building Sanco. We took up a campaign to build a creche. This was successful and the community felt what they can achieve with their unity. This cut across the Jerry Tutu and the PAC.

Bandwagon

He joined PAC at the time when all Wecusa leaders were jumping on the band wagon of ANC and PAC.

PAC opportunistically allowed his membership. We had a campaign in the ANC against these people. We are

ANC members in Macassar report

fighting the political mis-education of the youth by the PAC.

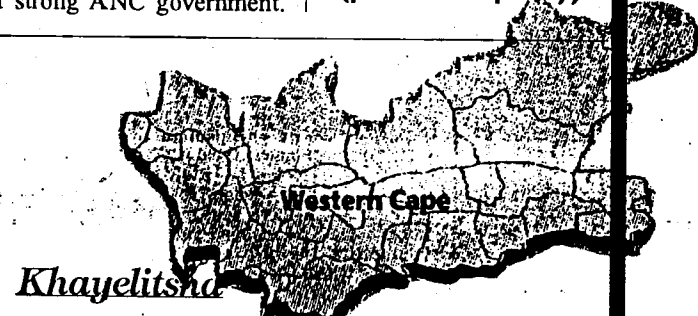
Youth are praising the killing of the whites in St James massacres and so on. The turning point in this political battle came recently when we won an ex-PAC local leader to the ANC. He is now the Secretary of Sanco.

We met him in a meeting called to curb a feud between Paso and Cosas at Chris Hani

High School. The PTSA at the school called us as the situation was getting out of control. Local ANC and PAC intervened.

PAC local leaders were very impressed by us. We had political discussions after the meetings. *Why are ANC leaders compromising with the whites? What is wrong with bombing a lot of whites are they not the enemy? Why did the ANC leaders abandon the armed struggle?* These were their questions.

No comrades! We explained patiently, the problem is not the colour of people but the capitalist



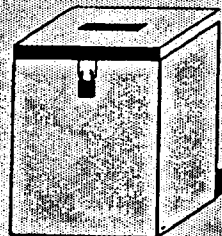
system that exploits the working people as well as the middle class.

We must unite against the capitalists and their state. Bombing the whites is not helping us, but the enemy. You drive people who could support us to the NP and DP. The capitalists will use them against us.

We told them that we do not agree with all the

compromises by our leaders. After elections we will fight together with the working class to reverse them.

After a long battle we won them. Now the PAC is intimidating them. Serious death threats have been made. On January 8 at the ANC birthday meeting they took a platform to explain why they joined the ANC.



Inside the ballot box

Self-interest

X Recent opinion polls have shown that a majority of bosses now say they support the ANC - even in Natal! Most want Nelson Mandela to be the next President. Does this mean the bosses have suddenly been converted to democracy? *Business Day* thinks not.

"They favour him because his election would be in their own best interests ... The business community may be fickle, even hypocritical, and it seldom speaks with one voice, but when it comes to survival it has powerful basic instincts."

They added: "There were times when it was expedient to kowtow to John Vorster and P.W. Botha, because they seemed to offer the best chance of a stable business environment, but businessmen also saw the writing on the wall for an untenable apartheid system long before it began to crumble." (6/12/93)

Walter Felgate for the Seychelles!

X All is not well in the IFP. Inkatha is unable to hide its divisions. The pact made between its Vaal region and the AWB was criticised by Ulundi; the King's children attended the ANC's Sonke Peace Festival; now the assegais are being sharpened for Buthelezi's best friend Walter Felgate. In January an unnamed Inkatha central committee member told the *Sunday Star* (9/1/94):

"Walter Felgate could become a patriot and emigrate to the Seychelles. He served us badly at negotiations. Cyril and Roelf went off trout fishing together and struck deals. Felgate just irritated everyone ... We were badly let down by him."

Who never killed anyone?

X The DP is owned by big business, and Anglo American in particular. It claims "We never killed anyone ... only apartheid."

Miners who work for Anglo-American disagree. In the last 90 years nearly 90 000 miners were killed making people like Zac De Beer rich. Those that survived lived on miserable wages, separated from their families, in hostels provided by Anglo. We think the DP should change its slogan to: "We never invented apartheid ... we only benefitted from it."

Brothers in arms?



X Misery likes company! Is there truth in reports that the PAC is considering an alliance with the IFP? PAC leaders should remember that an Alliance with the IFP is an alliance with the AWB and the KP.

