

PETERSEN

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For free and fair elections in Natal

Buthelezi must go !

On April 27 millions of oppressed people are going to vote for the first time in their lives. They will vote for freedom, peace and a better life for all.

But in the areas of Natal/KwaZulu where Buthelezi and his warlords are still in control many people fear that their ballot papers could become death warrants.

Inkatha wants to stop the election at all costs. We cannot accept that. Buthelezi must not be permitted to stand in the way of the determination of ordinary people to vote. The election will go ahead on April 27 - and the Zulu masses must vote.

Salute the masses of Bophuthatswana

The revolution against Mangope in Bophuthatswana was a brilliant display of the power of the working people. It was an inspiration to the oppressed in every corner of South Africa. It demonstrated the will of workers, women and youth to cast their vote in the April 27 election and change society.

It showed what workers' power can do in action to bring these tin-pot dictators down to size. Without the support of De Klerk and the NP, Mangope and the AWB were shown to be almost powerless.

The people of Bop shattered the so-called Freedom

Alliance, weakened the AWB, and put the fate of the masses in Natal on top of the political agenda.

Now the whole ruling class are scared of a similar mass movement developing against Buthelezi's corrupt regime.

Cosatu Vice-President, John Nkadimeng, was right to tell workers at Cosatu's regional congress in Durban that if we could bring down Mangope then we can do the same to Buthelezi.

But a struggle for political freedom in Natal/KwaZulu is more complicated than in Bophuthatswana.

Buthelezi has his own army, the KZP, as well as covert support from high-ranking generals in the SAP/SADF. In the rural areas the chiefs exercise a dictatorship over the people. In addition Buthelezi's use of the Zulu King has caused confusion and uncertainty amongst thousands.

A struggle to remove Buthelezi requires the full support of the ANC-SACP-Cosatu leadership. The masses in Natal need to see solidarity action from millions across the rest of South Africa.

A crisis already exists in Natal. Buthelezi has made his intentions clear. The Alliance leadership must not wait until the last minute to organise support for the people of Natal/KwaZulu.

Plan of action needed now

Solving the crisis in Natal is an urgent responsibility for every ANC, Cosatu and SACP member.

Natal is the second biggest region in South Africa. It will have 40 seats in the next National Assembly. If Buthelezi can stop hundreds of thousands of people from voting he will be able to cut the size of the ANC's majority nationally.

It is wrong to say that the election must go ahead in areas where it is possible, and then Buthelezi will be dealt with after the election.

If Buthelezi is allowed stay in power he will not only cause chaos before the election, but will also organise attacks against the new government after the election.

This will help De Klerk. It will help the bosses. It will make it more difficult for an ANC-majority government to carry out the plans in the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

Now is the time for Buthelezi to be removed! Now is the time to campaign to defend millions of Zulu people and struggle for their right to participate in the April 27 election!

Zulu people want to vote

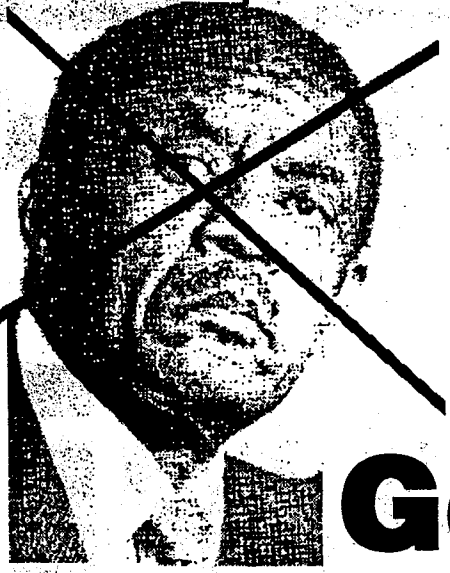
There are 1,3 million voters in Natal. 700,000 of them live in rural areas that are controlled by the Inkatha.

People in these areas want to vote. But are being threatened daily by racist farmers and chiefs who obey Buthelezi's every word. They know that even when Buthelezi promises free political activity Inkatha's real instruction to its followers is to use

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Zulu people are no different from millions of other blacks in South Africa. They too want an end to racial oppression. They too want jobs, houses and land. Inkatha will give them none of these.

violence to stop Zulu people from voting.

Buthlezi knows very well that if Inkatha took part in the election he would be finished. Opinion polls have put Inkatha support in the region at only 20%. The election would prove before the whole world that he does not represent the Zulu people, as he claims.

The ANC is clearly the majority party in Natal. An election victory would prove this.

Most Inkatha supporters want to vote. The majority are totally opposed to Buthlezi's plans to split Natal/KwaZulu away from the rest of South Africa and create a Zulu 'homeland'.

But Buthlezi does not even listen to his own 'members'. When he opened the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly he threatened to prohibit the election. He warned: "There will be no democratic settlement for South Africa, and there will be no peace to follow, until there is a settlement of the Kwa Zulu issues."

This is despite the agreement he reached with ANC President Nelson Mandela, and the promises he made to the Independent Electoral Commission to allow free political activity.

The ANC leadership has gone out of its way to try and reach a settlement with Inkatha. But Buthlezi and Walter Felgate do not want to compromise.

They deliberately sabotaged the meeting between comrade Mandela and King Zwelithini. Now Zwelithini's declaration of a Zulu Kingdom shows that further efforts to find a compromise will be useless. There is no point in international mediation to try and solve these issues.

We cannot sacrifice Zulu people's democratic rights - just to appease this power-hungry dictator.

Violent campaign

As far as people in Natal are concerned Inkatha's war has started already. The KwaZulu government, and the KZP are already engaged in a violent campaign to weaken the ANC.

The brutal murder of 15 youths who were preparing for a voter education workshop in Mahehle was a warning that there would be an intensification of the killings. A paid Inkatha official has since been arrested.

After that another ANC workshop was attacked in Nhlabane village. One of the trainers was shot and wounded.

These attacks were intended to be a threat to volunteers who are engaged in voter education, and campaigning for the ANC.

In recent weeks Inkatha has also tried to regain control over the big townships around Durban. They have launched attacks against Lamontville and Inanda. In Bhambayi 12 people were brutally murdered.

Inkatha even sent its impis to prevent the ANC from holding a rally at the King Zwelithini stadium in



An Inkatha impi occupies the King Zwelithini stadium in Umlazi to prevent an ANC rally

Umlazi. Five people were murdered.

As a result voter education in most areas of Natal/KwaZulu has come to a standstill.

Everybody knows who is behind these killings, but De Klerk has done nothing to stop the violence. He used to say that he had no constitutional power to act against Mangope because Bop was an "independent country." That was proved to be just an excuse.

Anyway, Natal/KwaZulu is a part of SA. The real reason for the NP not acting is their long support for Inkatha. They also know that the NP will get hardly any votes in Natal, while the ANC could get millions.

The TEC must act now

On March 1 Cyril Ramaphosa warned the TEC that Inkatha was preparing to attack people who want to vote. He read out a letter from a chief who said that anybody who voted would be killed.

The bosses' newspaper *Business Day* said openly "Inkatha will measure its election success in votes not cast, and claim moral victory from a low poll. The incentive for intimidation will be high, and both voter education teams and campaigners from other parties will be seen as hostile to Inkatha's interests." (14/3/1994).

What more evidence does the TEC need?

The failure of De Klerk and the TEC to solve this crisis is the reason why the biggest task facing the ANC-SACP-Cosatu Alliance now is to organise mass action to ensure there can be free and fair elections in the Natal/KwaZulu.

That means Buthlezi must go!

Time to act

Now is the time to take action to stop the killing.

The ANC should appeal to KwaZulu civil servants to stop serving Buthlezi and follow the brave example of their comrades in Bophutatswana. Their future is with the majority in the new South Africa - not with Inkatha.

The ANC should give an ultimatum to De Klerk:

Stop the killings

Close IFP-AWB training camps

The NP keeps denying that it is providing support to Inkatha. But now Judge Goldstone has given evidence that Inkatha has been provided with guns and money by the very top generals of the SA police. This is not all:

- At a camp in KwaMlaba in Southern Natal 3,000 people have been trained by the AWB and armed by the KwaZulu Police. Their training includes use of R-4 rifles and how to ambush a combi.

- Impis are once again being sent to hostels in the PWV to launch a new offensive.

- Press reports have suggested that Inkatha is getting guns from the AWB and Renamo.

Unless Buthlezi is removed by 1st April, and conditions for free and fair elections in Natal are secured, there will be mass action to end this bloody regime. A date should be set for a national general strike to enforce the following demands to the TEC:

- Buthlezi must be removed.
- The KZP must be dismantled.
- All Inkatha training camps should be closed.
- Disciplined community self-defence structures should be recognised, and given arms for self-protection.

- The KwaZulu Legislative Assembly must be dissolved. It must be replaced with an interim administration accountable to the TEC.

We believe that only if these demands are met will it be possible for free and fair elections to take place in Natal.

VOTE ANC

Campaign for peace and freedom in Natal