



## Editorial Comment

# ORGANISATION - OUR MIGHTY WEAPON

The decision to form the African National Congress in 1912 was born out of a realisation by our forefathers that without organisation and consequently unity our liberation from colonial domination would only remain a dream. That was almost 70 years ago. But today the need for united and organised action has become more urgent than at any other moment in our freedom struggle. Only a few days ago on the 19th October we remembered with anger and hatred how on that dark Wednesday four years ago the Pretoria Gestapo staged a clampdown on our organisations and newspapers. Many militant opponents of apartheid colonial domination were whisked away in pre-dawn raids; some were later to die in the racist gaols.

Having outlawed our national organisation, the ANC, the racist enemy was out to completely frustrate our efforts to create our own organisations as opposed to the dummy institutions like the so-called urban community councils, Indian and Coloured Representative Councils which are forced on us. But the racists could not have their way. We fought back. Defying arrests, torture and murder, we mobilised our forces underground to rebuild our organisations and



new ones emerged - trade unions, community, student, church and other organisations. With these organisations getting stronger, in spite of continued repression and because of the strengthening of the ANC's overall leadership inside the country, our mass resistance rose to new heights. Thus after our great May campaign against fascist rule our President, Comrade Oliver Tambo pointed to the future saying: "... the end of May should mark the end of desperate unco-ordinated mass action."

The r a c i s t s are becoming more vicious. Driven into a frenzied panic by our ever-growing mass upsurge whose striking power is remarkably sharpened by the heavy blows delivered by our gallant freedom fighters of Umkhonto we Sizwe throughout the country, the Botha-Malan fascist regime is desperately attempting to force us into submission through starvation and terror, as can be seen in the skyrocketing food and other prices; the alarming proportions assumed by forced removals and arrests. In order to weaken our struggle against this reign of terror and for final victory the enemy is waging an all-out campaign against our organisations. Inside the country patriots - members of the African National Congress and Umkhonto we Sizwe, leaders of trade unions and many other workers, student organisations and others are charged under fascist laws like Terrorism Act; many others are sentenced to death or murdered in dungeons. Hired murderers are sent outside the country to assassinate our patriots and leaders - Matola and Salisbury are clear examples.

All this shows that the Pretoria colonial regime fears our organisations. They fear them because when we are organised it is possible to co-ordinate our actions and direct them towards a clear and common goal. In turn this makes it possible for us to confront the enemy as a united force on all issues in every part of the country. This is precisely what our ANC and our programme for national liberation, the Freedom Charter, will always stand for. This is the mighty weapon, organisation and unity, which enabled the Vietnamese, Angolans, Mozambicans and Zimbabweans to win their liberation.

Therefore, let us continue to defend, strengthen our organisations and build new ones where necessary especially trade unions, and community organisations like PEBCO and Actstop. Let us all rally around our vanguard movement, the ANC, to win not only our immediate demands but our national independence and freedom in our lifetime.

**FORWARD TO PEOPLE'S POWER!**