

Political events in the past few years indicate irrefutably that an uprising of the historical magnitude of the 1976 Soweto one is gradually maturing in South Africa. The significance of these events is the importance of the organising tasks facing our vanguard alliance (ANC-SACP) for meeting the impending battles heroically and victoriously.

When the inevitable political upheavals come again, let them find us prepared for them, prepared with nuclei of a revolutionary army among our people. No military reprisals can diminish the importance of this task. And only by understanding this task clearly, and only by posing it boldly and persistently, can the units of the revolutionary army develop among the working people in order to win complete political victory over the racists and become strong points of a revolutionary government. Writing in "The Revolutionary Army and the Revolutionary Government", Lenin remarked:

"The revolutionary army is needed for military struggle and for military leadership of the masses against the remnants of the military forces of the autocracy. The revolutionary army is needed because great historical issues can be resolved only by force, and, in modern struggle, the organisation of forces means military organisation."

South Africa is pregnant with revolution, national in form but social in content, and what political sex the child will be, will be determined not at the stage when such child will be born, but right now at the stage of embryonic formation. Let us therefore organise for a victorious revolution that shall not be stopped on its way but that shall continue uninterrupted to complete change.

Bantustans - a repressive tool of Pretoria

The mistake that is always committed by the exploiter capitalist class is that of ignoring the lessons of history and the laws of social development. The recent history has long proved that the system of capitalist ex-

exploitation coupled with brutal oppression of the working masses must of necessity be superseded by a more advanced socio-political order that will surely give first preference to the interests of the people. This historical necessity and logic is valid to all countries where brutal exploitation of the masses exist. This is irrespective of the deceptions like 'reforms', 'civilisation', 'democracy' and the like. For the exploiters to try to turn a blind eye to this drive is to commit a grave blunder that will throw them unexpectedly into an abyss of history.

This is the mistake and blunder that the fascists of Pretoria have never learnt to correct. The racist Pretoria regime is purposefully ignoring the lessons of the recent peoples' revolutions that have taken place just at their door steps. They are purposefully ignoring and resisting the lessons of how the colonial empire of the Portuguese was grounded by the peoples of Angola, Mozambique and Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau. Instead, they have resorted to the balkanisation and fragmentation of our country at a rate unprecedented in history. Instead of meeting the demands of our school children in 1976, they gave what they called independence to the Transkei bantustan for the intensification of the oppression and exploitation of our people.

Today more than three of these so called homelands have been granted phoney independence. This is also an attempt by Pretoria to reduce the pressure that our people are exerting upon that system of brutal oppression and soulless exploitation not for the benefit of the tribal elite that has been put in charge of these institutions but for the internal and external big businesses. These tribal bogus states have nonetheless resulted in untold torment in our country.

The bantustan is by its very nature a repressive institution. It will be a grave mistake for us to think that the bantustan system was founded in 1963 when the Transkei under Pretoria's protégés, the Matanzima brothers, accepted what was then called self-government. It has been in the interests of the Nationalist Party to balkanise our country so as to secure their power and therefore domination over our people. This is proved by a pamphlet issued by the head office of the Nationalist Party shortly before the end of 1947. It read: "The policy of our country should encourage total apartheid as the ultimate goal of a natural process of separate development... the bantu in the urban areas should be regarded as migratory citizens not entitled to political or social rights equal to those of the whites. The process of detribalisation should be arrested." This is enough to prove that a bantustan is the logical outcome of the Land Act of 1913 that had robbed our people of whatever piece of fertile land available in South Africa.

The forced evictions of our people by the Pretoria cutthroats are in line with the arrest of this process of detribalisation and therefore of unity that has been forged decades ago. For the puppets to applaud these evictions is equivalent to applauding and endorsing the repression and division of our country against unity that hundreds have died for.

Furthermore these institutions are but important pillars in the South African capitalist economic order in that they are responsible for the providing of cheap labour power to what the racists call white South Africa. Today the economy of South Africa is largely based on the cheap labour power of the Black population.

The economy of South Africa rests upon the shoulders of the African population that is used as the pillar to balance it. Any move aimed at removing this load threatens the very existence of the Afrikaner capitalist rule together with their allies. That is why it has become more than urgent for our people to unite against this institution and bring its downfall and of the whole apartheid system forthwith.

A new and revealing aspect of the bantustans is the growth of the repressive powers of the puppet state apparatus in these areas. The Pretoria regime has readily conferred upon the homelan^d leaders powers of the type it itself possesses in excess which also guarantees that the rule of lawlessness will be existent or already exists where these have been granted 'independence'. It is then not surprising for stooges like Charles Sebe to be so bold as to admit that "we (puppets) are a government terrorists."

In the Transkei, the draconian proclamation R400 is ruling the territory and is further used to silence any opposition against oppression. No less sinister are the so-called rehabilitation centres that have been built in some of these bantustans. Recently chief puppet, Lennox Sebe, confirmed that he, also, is going to build a new concentration camp run along military lines to 'discipline' the contract labourers who have violated their contracts in 'South Africa'.

Presently the number of the trade unionists detained in these so-called homelands far exceeds those detained in 'white' fascist dungeons. The rule of the gun has become the order of the day. The mysterious deaths in detention has assumed new proportions. The reckless use of their armies tipped with the mercenarism of the selous scouts has resulted in the death of a number of our people in Pondoland and many other regions of our country. The use of the Inkatha impis against our students has not passed unnoticed. In the bantustan of Vendaland multiplied violence against our people has been the order of the day. A number of our patriots have been cold bloodedly murdered in Mphephu's dungeons. In Bophuthatswana like in

all other bantustans, trade unionism is under brutal suppression. Huge sums of money have been demanded from our starving masses to support this terror campaign against their liberation. Added to the economic over-load which is worsened by the high inflation rate which has kept the prices of consumer goods ever high is the maintenance of these puppets. All these are enough proof to show that these labour reserves have nothing in common with the interests of our oppressed masses. This once more shows that these are institutions that are aimed at reinforcing the rule of the Nationalists and ensure their monopoly in the reins of power. This is done with the hope of retarding our advance towards liberation.

There can never be any other weapon to fight these institutions than organisation. We, the oppressed nation, are the one who are also responsible for our liberation. As our late Chief Albert Luthuli stated:

"The length of the term of slavery depends largely on the oppressed themselves and not the oppressor... We have the key to freedom - not the oppressor..."

In all peoples' struggles for freedom the world over, it has been proved that victory over the forces of oppression and exploitation is impossible without a united and determined people. The creation of the puppet killer squads in these reserves has been necessitated by the regime's plans to see us killing one another. At this stage we cannot manage to be responsible for our own oppression, no matter what amount of racist deception and hoodwinking is used. The puppet armies and police can never be stronger than our unity against the whole apartheid system. We need to organise ourselves into small but massive underground fighting cells. We need to unite in action with the people who live in the urban areas.

Bantustans are a divisive institution for us not to realise our strength and unity. It then becomes necessary to join democratic organisations and join hands in the fight against Pretoria. We must join democratic unions, student organisations, women's federations and other civic organisations within bantustans. Let us boycott their elections and demand an end to these oppressive camps and be part of the emerging United Democratic Front and together advance towards the goal of a democratic non-racial South Africa. Our ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe, need us. Let us be part of this revolutionary force and reinforce our gallants in the destruction of the Pretoria tyranny and its puppet armies in the bantustans.