

# DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Idasa's goals are:

- To promote the development of a democratic culture in South Africa
- To address fear, prejudice, anger and other obstacles in the transition to a non-racial democracy in South Africa
- To engage influential groups and individuals who may be outsiders to the transition process
- To provide, wherever possible, information on critical issues and to explore ways of addressing these
- To facilitate discussion of constitutional and developmental issues relevant to Southern Africa
- To assist and encourage others to contribute to the attainment of these goals

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EDITORIAL

## A momentous year what has really o

TEN MONTHS after the State President's historic speech, mass mobilisation remains a key strategy of the ANC/UDF/Cosatu alliance. Why? With negotiations taking place at top level between Mr Mandela and Mr De Klerk, with major concessions gained, why does the emphasis remain on consumer boycotts, strike action and why are marches still the order of the day?

Firstly there is a perception at grassroots level that the ANC is battling to shift from a liberation movement to a political party and that De Klerk has gained the high ground. Secondly, there is a feeling also at grassroots level that decisions are being made at top level by the ANC without prior consultation. Those in leadership at local and regional level are therefore attempting to hold the loyalty of the people on the ground by mass action.

This is very easy to do. Nothing has really changed for the vast majority of people in South Africa, despite the many dramatic shifts which have taken place. The school system for blacks remains chaotic and unacceptable. The housing shortage is compounded every day as more and more people move from the rural areas to the cities. The majority of people are poorly housed, if at all. Health facilities are hopelessly inadequate and there doesn't seem to be any possibility of change in the short term. Transport to and from work is overcrowded and dangerous. In a word, the quality of life for the overwhelming majority of people in South Africa remains the life of an impoverished ghetto.

### Unsympathetic

These conditions are compounded by electric light and water services being cut off from a number of townships that are behind in their rent payments. The perception

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