

# Time to examine alliance

IN the December issue of *Democracy in Action*, I wrote an editorial entitled "A Coalition of Democrats?" I have been greatly encouraged by the response that I have received to this concept. It seems clear that there is a new growing understanding within opposition groups in South Africa that the hard-line "go it alone" approach serves neither the individual group concerned nor the struggle against apartheid.

It would be simplistic to imagine that strongly divergent views can be ignored or resolved overnight. What is important is the quest to discover whether opposition groups actually converge and share basic principles and philosophies and a willingness to accept in practice as well as in theory the need for a multiple strategy approach.

This means that there needs to be an honest attempt to examine again the concept of alliance politics. We dare not allow the apartheid system to continue to divide and bedevil those who find the policy repugnant and dangerous. It ought rather to give urgency to a new appreciation of how much we need one another and the obvious advantages of sharing ideas, strategies and resources, both human and material.

## Joint action crucial



*Dr Alex Boraine (executive director of IDASA) with Zimbabwe Minister of Justice in Zimbabwe, Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa*

"chasing our own tails" as it were, so that little time can be found for joint consultation and joint action. If we are serious however, we simply have to set aside the time and discover ways and means for new and creative thinking so that we don't simply continue making the same

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