

DEMOCRACY

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in AC

Ballot box or Pandora's

South Africans of all persuasions should start preparing for an election. Rapid movement to a transitional government – based on an elected constitution-making body – is increasingly becoming a popular political option.

When Codesa 2 stuttered and then failed, negotiators from the various parties – and in particular the ANC and the government – had reached remarkable agreements on a variety of subjects including mechanisms for transitional government.

The fallout from Codesa and the subsequent despair and anger evoked by Boipatong has led to people questioning whether those in working groups were actually speaking the same language or were just pretending to agree. The mass action campaign in progress at the moment was designed either to remind the government of the urgency of establishing peace and democracy or of removing it from office and replacing it with interim measures which would be more responsive to the needs of the country.

Elections may get SA back on track

BY PAUL
GRAHAM



‘ This is a day of mourning. This is a day of shame – the events of Boipatong have shocked our nation and the nations of the world so that even the most apathetic, the most anaesthetised among us, recoil in horror and shame and have to say “Enough!”

Enough of this carnage, this brutal slaughter, this degrad-

Live the dream

At a memorial service on June 29, the Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu, called on orderlies to take the lead in building a new South Africa of peace, humanity and

Live the dream now

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It is not enough to march each time when the funeral processions far outnumber the occasions on which we march, and the death certificates far outnumber the letters of protest to the government – and more is said at funeral services than at Codesa.

These are bleak days indeed. Days in which we think that we can generate pride in ourselves as a nation by winning gold medals on a sports field.

We are so good at blocking out of our national consciousness and from our corporate conscience the daily death and mayhem. We want to see ourselves as heroes; as winners. And so we place the task of winning respect and adulation upon the shoulders of our athletes, our sportspeople. And we sit back in our armchairs with our newspapers or watching our televisions – swollen with pride at our sportsmen and women's achievements.

'We are so good at blocking out of our national consciousness and from our corporate conscience the daily death and mayhem'



Dean Colin Jones with Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The Argu

egging the game on from the side-lines. Faceless people never brought to justice; the police who are supposed to ensure the safety and protection of the innocent who always happen to be at the wrong place at the wrong time; inconclusive findings...

South Africa's leaders – and I am talking across the entire spectrum of leadership – by not giving a strong lead to their followers to end the violence, must bear the responsibility of our national shame...

But in order (to create) a society in which

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change? The events of the past weeks and indeed months, and in particular the Boipatong massacre have yet again exposed the South African government's lack of will and/or inability to bring about peace and justice for all.

But we ourselves will not be doing any better, we will not be able to live the dream now, if we are haunted by the nightmarish ghost of pessimism and a "victim mentality". For pessimism and self-victimisation are the chains of our *own* forging and only we can free ourselves from them.

It is all too easy to see ourselves as victims. And the mood of the victim is inevitably despair, resentment and self-pity. These feelings are totally undermining of true human liberation. We cannot build a new society out of these.

'Political posturing and power positioning, corruption and skulduggery are not what ordinary South Africans want from our leaders. We want hope not euphoria'

It is not enough to resist being slaves of an oppressive and corrupt government while also being slaves of our own making - shackled to destructive patterns of behaviour, trapped by bitterness and resentment, overtaken by the violence of our emotions and actions - not free at all.

I appeal on behalf of all the citizens of our mother city, to all our brothers and sisters in those communities beset by violence, not to allow themselves to be slaves of yet another oppressive and destructive master: violence,...

Jihad McWo

**The two major political tendencies of our a
alism - clash at every point except one: b
says American political scientist BENJAM**

Just beyond the horizon of current events lie two possible political futures - both bleak, neither democratic.

The first is retribalisation of large swathes of humankind by war and bloodshed: a threatened Lebanonisation of national states in which culture is pitted against culture, people against people, tribe against tribe - a Jihad in the name of a hundred narrowly conceived faiths against every kind of interdependence, social co-operation and civic mutuality.

The second is being borne in on us by the onrush of economic and ecological forces that demand integration and uniformity, and mesmerise the world with fast music, fast computers and fast food - with MTV, Macintosh and McDonald's pressing nations into one commercially homogenous global network: one McWorld tied together by technology, ecology, communications and commerce.

They have one thing in common: neither offers much hope to citizens looking for practical ways to govern themselves democratically.

Four imperatives make up the dynamic of McWorld: a market imperative, a resource imperative, an information-technology imperative and an ecological imperative.

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