

The Alliance Born in Struggle

ANC — SACP



OLIVER TAMBO

President of the African National Congress

It is a matter of record that for much of its history, the South African Communist Party has been an integral part of the struggle of the African people against oppression and exploitation in South Africa. We can all bear witness that in the context of the struggle against colonial structures, racism and the struggle for power by the people, the SACP has been fighting with the oppressed and exploited.

Notwithstanding that it has had to concentrate on thwarting the efforts to destroy it, cadres of the SACP have always been ready to face the enemy in the field. Because they have stood and fought in the front ranks, they have been amongst those who have suffered the worst brutalities of the enemy, and some of the best cadres have sacrificed their lives.

And so, your achievements are the achievements of the liberation struggle. Your heroes are ours. Your victories, those of all the oppressed. The relationship between the ANC and the SACP is not an accident of history, nor is it a natural and inevitable development. Ours is not merely a paper alliance, created at conference tables and formalised through the signing of documents and representing only an agreement of leaders. Our alliance is a living organism that has grown out of struggle. We have built it out of our separate and common experiences.

Today the ANC and SACP have common objectives in the eradication of the oppressive and exploitative system that prevails in our country: the seizure of power and the exercise of their right to self-determination by all the people of South Africa.

We share the strategic perspective of the task that lies ahead.

*We print short extracts
from the speeches of
Oliver Tambo
President of the ANC
and Moses Mabhida
General Secretary of
the SACP
on the occasion of
our 63rd anniversary*



MOSES MABHIDA

General Secretary

South African Communist Party

Our Party's stand as far as national liberation goes in South Africa is quite clear. It fully supports the same programme of liberation as the African National Congress, for the seizure of power and majority rule. The National Liberation Movement, to quote Lenin, 'is a necessary ally of the proletarian revolution'.

Our Party's relationship with the African National Congress is based on mutual trust, reciprocity, comradeship in battle and a common struggle for national liberation. Our unity of aims and methods of struggle are a rare instance of positive alignment between the forces of class struggle and national liberation.

We are clear about the priorities of our struggle, first national liberation and then an advance towards socialism.

The Freedom Charter, our people's document and programme of the ANC, sets out a scheme for the desired democratic liberated South Africa. We know full well that the racist regime in 1956 shouted 'Treason' when the programme was declared and it imprisoned 156 leaders of the liberation movement.

This document is now widely accepted as the people's vision of a free South African society. The Charter emphasises People's Power, it is against all forms of discrimination, it guarantees equal rights, freedom of movement, residence, occupation and religious affiliation.

The struggle of our people and our Party is thus a struggle against racism, colonialism, imperialist exploitation and oppression, for liberation, human dignity and peace.

STRENGTHEN THE ALLIANCE!