

Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

27937
No.:
c: 41578

External Headquarters
P. O. Box 2412,
Dar es Salaam
United Republic of Tanzania

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PAC, CDE ZEPHANIA
MOTHOPENG AT THE OPENING OF THE CONSULTATIVE
MEETING BETWEEN PAC AND PAM HELD IN HARARE ON MARCH
2ND TO MARCH 4TH, 1990

Comrade Chairperson,
Comrade President of the Pan Africanist Congress,
Your Excellency, the Minister for Political Affairs
Zimbabwe, Comrade Zvobo,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Distinguished delegates,
Comrades and Friends.

We never cease to be impressed by the hospitality of the Government, Party and people of Zimbabwe, and on behalf of the PAC, we express our sincerest appreciation to our tried-and-tested friends for all their endeavours to assist the struggling masses of Azania.

We are gathered here today during a very important era in our history when our country (Azania) is balanced on a very thin precipice which can take it to easily fall one way or the other. By this I mean that we can either delay real freedom through blunders, or we can act with precision based on scientific analysis to bring about the fall of the already altering racist regime.

PURPOSE OF THIS CONSULTATION:

The purpose of this august consultation of the Pan Africanists is to gather on this historic occasion to map out a feasible programme which could bring about what we are striving for, that is, the total freedom of the Azanian people resulting in national liberation and self-determination. But before we can tackle this programme we should examine or consider the state of the political situation internally, with specific reference to the regime, liberation movements and grassroots expectations.

Comrade Chairman, the country is still ruled by the National Party of J.F. Malan which came to power in 1948 and it still holds the ideas of that Party which crudely expressed its racial divisions and appropriation of the greater part of the land to the White minority. This is aimed at maintaining the indigenous African majority under perpetual tutelage and subservience in order to enable the ruling class to dominate and exploit them for as long as possible.

We need not to go into the history of how the National Party government went about achieving this domination as it is well known and as this consultation is convened to focus on a solution to the practices and existence of the racist colonial regime.

THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS:

In the search for an instrument of freedom, the masses have launched liberation movements.

Let this be clear: The tactics and methods used by liberation movements might be numerous, but there is only one basis of strength, namely grassroots involvement. It is the task of the oppressed, exploited and dispossessed majority to usher in liberation irrespective of the degree of assistance received from outside. In other words our watchword is "self-reliance" as the masses alone are practically involved in the struggle and they are their own liberators. The expectations of the peasants and workers far exceed the degree to which the regime is willing or is capable of reaching through so-called reforms.

Notwithstanding the need for self-reliance, complimentary assistance with no strings attached hastens the day of liberation and we therefore appeal for material assistance from all our friends to speed up the demise of the evil system.

POTENTIAL FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT:

I have included this topic in my speech because it is being invoked loosely these days in order to prove that a political solution in Azania must be received through negotiations. If we examine the real issues we shall soon realise that it goes further than we are made to believe. What are the real, issues?

1. It is the repossession of land by its rightful owners;
2. It is the creation of a non-racial democratic government based on a system of majority rule in a unitary state;
3. It is the creation of a socialist order which will not pander to racial guarantees but will take into account the primacy of the interest of the individual for the common good of humanity;

In short therefore, I am advocating the transfer of power and resources to the African people. This must be clearly understood as this alone is true liberation, true freedom and self-determination in the context of Africa.

Let us now look at the tactics of the enemy. The enemy is in principle opposed to majority rule and transfer of land. On this they have dug in their heels. They are looking for a political settlement outside these two issues. It therefore becomes clear that as far as the real issues are concerned the solution to the country problems is not around the corner. It therefore goes without saying that the armed struggle must continue and that a cessation of hostilities without a cessation of the evil system is out of the question.

TASKS FACING THE PAC:

It is obvious in the light of what I have said that the PAC must continue to address the real issues, and must gather its loins in readiness to face the onerous task which lies ahead by firstly organising the masses under African Nationalism and secondly by recognising the workers and peasants as the vanguard of the struggle and involving them. This will mean that we streamline ourselves politically and making all structures fighting fit for a protracted struggle.

This consultation is faced with the task of producing programmes, strategies and tactics to enable us to win the struggle. We must not be wishful in our thinking but take into account the realistic situation in Azania and build a strong organisation inside. We are putting our heads together and we will pool our experiences from home and abroad.

I am confident that we will produce an unfolding programme that will enable us to win the struggle. The 1990's is the decade of liberation and it is up to us to make this feasibility a reality. Let us close our ears to distracting noises, so that we, the historic pacesetters in Azania, can lift the struggle to a level where the enemy will not be able to stall the forward march of liberty and self-rule.

In conclusion I once more thank the Government, Party and People of Zimbabwe for allowing us here and we thank the Frontline States for Support over the years. We continue to look to the OAU for inspiration and solidarity.

The struggle continues!

Izwe lethu
The land is ours

Thank you.