

AN APPEAL TO ALL MUSLIMS & GOD-CONSCIOUS DON'T VOTE

I humbly appeal to all Muslims and God-conscious not to vote in the election process next week

The reasons are:

- a) The entire negotiating process was undemocratic;
- b) The condition of the majority of people will not change, and;
- c) The concept of democracy in Islam is different from that in the western world. In Islam it is a 'controlled' democracy in the sense that it is based on a Divinely-inspired eternal immutable law, safely preserved in the holy Quran. In the 'Islamic democracy' the fact that a million people consent to an act of wrong does not make it any less wrong. The representatives of the people of such a country governed by Divine law may of course, through mutual consultation make supplementary laws within the framework of this universal law, in order to meet the demands of the time and changing conditions. The Islamic legislative process is therefore both stable and progressive.

With respect to the Islamic parties, I fail to see their function and purpose

The reasons are:

- a) The Quran declares: "Verily, God does not change the condition of a people, until they change their inner selves." (13:11)
We must first change our 'inner selves', concern ourselves with the human race and change the moral and social outlook of the people. The aim must be to produce a society that promotes goodness, one that prohibits that which is unwholesome and sanctions what is good and wholesome. The guidance as to how to bring about this fundamental psychological change is clearly spelt out in the Quran and in the example of the Prophet (p.b.u.h.);
- b) When the Prophet was offered a leadership post over Arabia by the then ruling tribe, he declined. It would seem ideal at the time to accept. He could by joining 'the party' negotiate from a position of strength and in this way accomplish his mission. He however rejected this alliance. He was not going to compromise ethical principles by becoming part of the mainstream. He could not condemn injustices in one place and condone unwholesome laws elsewhere;
- c) Islam especially in South Africa is distant from the genuine Islam. This is in spite of Muslims having enjoyed basic religious freedom. How is mere representation in government now all of a sudden going to change its course? In addition the Muslims being the minority group will simply have to abide by a majority decision even though such decisions be contrary to Islamic laws, eg: The granting of gambling rights, various obscenities, etc;

Finally:

- d) To those who claim to represent the Muslims in the various parties may we ask: Have you proved yourself to be worthy of leadership over the years?

One may therefore conclude that the Muslims and the God-conscious must not participate in the election process. They should instead dedicate their lives to the establishment of a just social order, based on the Divine Will, and not on fragile and short-sighted man-made laws. Only then will we enjoy peace, harmony and security

ISLAM TO THE WORLD TRUST