

EVENING POST

MY PARTY'S MAIN STANDPOINTS, THE DIRECTION THE COUNTRY SHOULD STEER, AND WHY I BELIEVE MY PARTY DESERVES VOTER SUPPORT.

On constitutional and political policy the PFP believes that a National Convention is urgently necessary in order to negotiate a new constitution for the Republic that enjoys the support and commitment of the majority of people in this country. We believe such a constitution must allow for full citizenship for all people irrespective of race or ethnicity, effective political participation for all the political interest groups without one group dominating another, that there should be no statutory discrimination of any kind and that the rule of law should be protected by an independent judiciary - in other words, where you will not have arbitrary arrests, detention without trial or bannings.

Socially we believe in the discrimination-free provision of education by the State for all people and that the quality of education should be the same for every person irrespective of race or ethnicity. We believe that home ownership should be strengthened and that family life should be protected. Every person irrespective of race or ethnicity is entitled to shelter, family life and to be free to move around to look for work opportunities. That is why we reject the Pass Laws, the Group Areas Act, the Separate Amenities Act, the Population Registration Act, etc. We believe in an economy where equality of opportunity and progress through one's own ability and merit should be the only determining criteria and not the colour of one's skin.

These are the main standpoints of my Party.

Regarding the direction that the country should steer in at the present time, we believe that it is the duty of the government to create a climate conducive to negotiation for a new constitution.

Such a climate can be created by systematically removing all forms of statutory racial discrimination, getting rid of inequalities in essential services such as the police, the nursing and teaching professions, etc., closing the income gap on the basis that a person should be rewarded in terms of his/her ability and not in terms of the colour of his/her skin.

Once such a climate has been created through the actions of the Government I believe it would not only be necessary but highly desirable to call a representative National Convention where the respected and recognised leaders of all the different political interest groups can sit down and negotiate a new constitution. Such a constitution is urgently necessary and it should reflect the commitment and loyalty of the people who are involved in creating that constitution. That is the only way in which one can guarantee that the constitution will provide for the security of all South Africans. If we want a constitution that will bring about co-operation between groups, then it is quite clear that groups will have to co-operate in bringing about that constitution.

Finally, I believe my Party deserves voter support because we, as we have said right through this election, stand for real reform in South Africa, not sham or cosmetic reform but real reform that tackles the real problems of South Africa - the problems of racial discrimination, the problems of inflation and the spiralling cost of living. We believe that only through real reform can one have real security and real security is what we need more than anything else - real security that lies in a constitution accepted and supported by all, not sham security that depends on domination of one group over another. Because this Government is not capable of providing real reform that can lead to real security, I believe that what this country needs now more than ever is a real Opposition and all the evidence shows that the PFP is the only real Opposition in contesting this election and the only growing one.