MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CODESA
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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I am rather concerned by the latest turn of events and by the direction that CODESA as a whole seems to have taken. When I voted YES in the referendum to the continuation of the reform process, at no time did I or any other person vote that the A.N.C be given the ability to be gradually placed as the party in power in South Africa. CODESA is not a power proving ground where one party can intimidate the other parties in order to dominate the course of negotiations. The people of South Africa are paying large amounts of money for CODESA to take place and therefore are not impressed by the course that it is following.

This country is unique from all others in the world and as such one cannot introduce a system of government that has gone before, but should rather look for a new system for the most effectiveness. A system of Democracy allows only one party to come into power. At the moment, with the A.N.C. as it is, that would mean the formation of a communist state which defeats the purpose of the initial democratic process. A Federal system would just create separate states, different groups would then congregate in particular states, and these separate states which would try and create their own independence after a while. That would lead to further differences and therefore conflict, which S.A has had enough of. A system where the parties have an amount of say according to their size does not work either, for minorities are once again abused and have no impact on their future.

The only system whereby equality can hope to be achieved in a country with as much diversity as ours, is where each party has as much power and as much say as all others. This prevents a minority group from being abused or neglected by the larger parties. No party or group can now claim that their rights and interests are being ignored for all have an equal say. There can be no violence or stay-aways because all groups have a say in the government.

All people will now have a say in the country and will therefore have respect for their country's rules and laws. This system effectively erases the main problems and difficulties currently being experienced in this country, and prevents one group dominating another, which is always a cause of violence. No party can now get out of hand and start abusing their position as there is no room for abuse.

It's time that systems which allow one party to have more power and say than another were thrown out, for if there is ever to be true equality in South Africa then a governmental system of true equality will also have to be introduced.

The process of negotiated change and transition should in no way be dominated and interfered with by ANY party or group, no matter what they claim or threaten.

An interim government does not lend in any way to the process of change through negotiation. All that an interim government creates is deadlocks and breakdowns through interference in the running of the country. What does an interim government achieve? It merely allows groups or parties to claim a salary from the government, an expense we can ill afford at this time, and it means that groups with NO experience in the running of a country can now direct the country on a course of their own choice. This would direct the country on a direct course of ruin and self destruction.

If groups or parties refuse to take part in the process of negotiation in CODESA because their plans are being turned down due to their impracticality and self-serving nature then that is problem of those groups or parties. The process of negotiation should continue without those groups if they no longer wish to take part in the process of negotiation. It is therefore the loss of those groups or parties and the process of change is therefore not jeopardised due to one groups radicalism.

The time where radicalism has power over the balanced process of peaceful negotiation has passed and CODESA should now proceed onwards, not being hampered in any way through unnecessary interference.

ANTON VAN NIEKERK
ATHOL