

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Western Cape Region



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PRESS STATEMENT

On 12th October, once again, the tricameral parliament will assemble. On the agenda are a number of bills whose purpose is to restructure the current political environment unilaterally by preempting decisions that should correctly be considered by an Interim Government of National Unity.

We reject, in particular, the bill proposing a general amnesty. Through this proposed legislation, it is clear that the government intends to protect itself and its agents from public investigation of its crimes against the South African people.

It is our view that the only purpose of the present racist parliament at this stage of our history is to ratify the necessary legislation for a transition to democracy. The present parliament has neither the legitimacy nor the moral right to pass legislation that should by right be dealt with by an Interim Government or a properly elected Constituent Assembly.

It is in order to demonstrate public opposition to these ill-founded and presumptuous plans of the National Party to hijack the democratic process that we will be mobilising our people to come to parliament on the 12th October.

Our plans are as follows:

At 10am, we will gather on the Parade to prepare for a march to parliament. Between 11am and 12 noon, we will surround parliament completely, sitting down, in order to highlight our opposition to further government restructuring. At midday, national speakers will address a rally on Stalplein (outside the gates of Tuynhuys), repeating our call for an Interim Government of National Unity in order to prepare for free and fair elections for a Constituent Assembly. During the rally, we will be renaming Stalplein after Albert Luthuli, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. The square will henceforth be known as Luthuli Square. After the rally, we will return to the Parade in order to disperse.

We have consulted with the City Council with regard to our proposed action and have obtained agreement in principle, though some of the details still need to be finalised.

As always, we will be holding special briefing sessions with our marshals whose responsibility it will be to ensure that the proceedings are orderly, peaceful and disciplined.

The People Shall Govern !

We call on all who join us on the 12th October to do so in a spirit of disciplined, peaceful protest against the continued existence of a parliament that has neither the ability nor the moral legitimacy to speak for the majority of South Africans.

Issued by the ANC, Cosatu and SACP Alliance

For more information, please telephone Susan de Villiers 448-5651 or 689-2373