

SUBMISSIONS OF THE INTANDO YESIZWE PARTY TO THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON VIOLENCE ON THE DESIRABILITY OF THE PEACE CORPS/YOUTH

In the early seventies and before, the workers were the vanguard of the emancipation of the oppressed black masses until the year 1976 when for the first time the black youth resisted to accept Afrikaans as medium of instruction in their schools. That was the turning point and the beginning of the struggle by the Youth.

The harassment, arrests and disruption of a learning process in the black schools forced some of these students out of schools and even some of those who remained against all odds in the schools could not unite their year end examinations. This again added to their discouragement, frustration and demotivation.

The Youth has since then assumed an active role in the shaping of our country's political future and we appreciate and acknowledge their heroic involvement.

The objective that our people have of installing a new order in our country shall not be sacrificed especially after our fore-bearers and the Youth in particular have indeed suffered so dearly under the apartheid rule. Due to the lack of peace in our Country and because our Country is bleeding - because of the prevailing created evils. Our Youth have no choice but to mobilise and organize themselves on actions that might be viewed by some as radicalism and being militant. The prolonged negotiations taking place at the Multi Party Talks, which are seen as producing nothing tangible and substantive which people can hold on to has caused un-certainty, confusion and impatience.

Certainly all our people are getting more and more confused, more uncertain and indeed more impatient each day which goes by without delivering freedom. With each day going by with the people not realizing their objective their hope for peace and a New Government of the people is gradually waning.

It is at the grassroots where the Youth has featured prominently. It is at that crucial level where dis-unity, selfishness, intolerance and divisions should not be allowed to triumph over peace.

It is at that level that all democratic and peace loving Youth organisations need to open to each other and interaction be inculcated. It is again at this stage where parties can plan joint strategies to ensure the peaceful liberation of our people, organise seminars together and all other peace related activities.

The National Peace Accord must also be promoted and it's principles be made known, respected by all and implemented at this level of our political structures.

It is a considered opinion that all Youth political and cultural formations should establish their own peace desk where those parties will re-educate their followers about the contemporary approach towards solving South Africa's problems away from erstwhile confrontational politics to a negotiated and peaceful one. From these structures all forms of peace structures and activities can then flow.

Again it is from these desks and/or structures where delegates could be elected to represent those various parties/formations in the goal/Dispute Resolution Committees (L.D.R.C)

The L.D.R.C. with its minimum and limited powers has thus far done significant work in our Townships to quell violence and defuse the situations of potential violence. All what is needed is that their decisions and recommendations should be given binding force.

The peace structures (proposed) above should also be prominently engaged in bi-lateral talks amongst themselves whenever the leaders of the parties engaged in hostilities hold bi-lateral indaba at the National level, so as to promote the spirit and ideas agreed upon at the National level.

Presently National leaders engage in bi-lateral talks at National level but whatever is discussed and agreed upon at that level seldom filters down to grassroot level.