



VENDA GOVERNMENT POSITION PAPER ON VIOLENCE.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

Violence has been the enemy to humanity and will always be apponent to peace and stability unless prevented. The escalating violence in our country is counter-productive and threat to a climate conducive to free political participation. Free political participation which refers to the right of every individual to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of association is a basis for free and peaceful political climate conducive for negotiations to take place. Thus a proper climate will provide every individual or organisation with an opportunity to put forward their ideas and view points on the direction to be followed without any hinderance.

2. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO VIOLENCE.

Socio-economic conditions which have a bearing on violence especially within the black community should be addressed. Lack of social resources such as accommodation, high level of unemployment and poverty which came as a result of inequality in the distribution of wealth, play a role in the increase of violence.

Lack of political tolerance by political parties and organisations participating in negotiations is another area of concern. All political parties and organisations should submit themselves to the principle of democracy emphasising the freedom of the individual. Political intimidation has assumed different levels in Southern African which is evident of lack of a culture of political tolerance. All leaders of political parties and organisations should give a lead to their supporters and educate them towards acceptance of others and plant seeds of friendship. They should inspire and urge their supporters to desire and work for peace. Co operation rather than confrontation amongst leaders should be the order of the day. To elimanate some of these problems, a code of conduct for political parties as spelt out in the National Peace Accord should be enforced.

Certain predisposing factors such as retrechments has a bearing on violence. This factor cannot be looked into in isolation but forms a chain reaction of factors. Once there is violence and instability within the country, there will be a sharp increase in disinvestment which ultimately leads to retrenchments.

It is also essential to consider other factors which look to be minor and having no bearing on violence but having such a tremendous effect. Trigger effects such as individual assaults, rumours, insults, to mention a few also play a prominent role. To this end we call upon all leaders of political parties and organisation to educate their supporters to practice the principle of acceptance, in other words to accept other people as part of the community and not wish them away.

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3. CONCLUSION

Violence free community is the ideal situation for negotiation to take place but, it is difficult to attain such a situation. It is therefore essential to identify and analyse various causes of violence so that meaningful solutions can be establish for the betterment of the country. As some problems cannot be solved there and then, they need to be classified in terms of long and short term projects so as to pave the way for free political activity. Finally it is essential that all political parties and organisations should have common purpose to bring an end to violence which will culminate an a democratic society.