

PC 11/1/1/3/7

ALAN PATON CENTRE UKZ-N-P

# 1961 - 1981 WHAT IS THERE TO CELEBRATE? PACSA FACTSHEET NO 7



## 1. WHO WANTED A REPUBLIC AND WHO WAS CONSULTED?

"On 20 January 1960 the Prime Minister announced in the Assembly that the Government intended holding a referendum on the republican issue, the decision to be by majority verdict, even if it was a majority of only one." (SAIRR Survey '59-60).

"In response to the call that all the people of South Africa should be given the opportunity of expressing their point of view, the Deputy Minister when introducing the Referendum Bill at its second reading on 22 April 1961 said 'the National Party uphold the principle that White South Africa is the guardian of the Non White, and that it would be wrong to call in the Non Whites as an arbiter in the matter.'" (SAIRR Survey '59-60).

## 2. WHY DID THE NATIONALISTS WANT A REPUBLIC?

1944 - Eric Louw: "As long as we remain within the British Commonwealth...we shall continually be hindered by British liberalism in our attempts to solve the colour problem and the Jewish question." (Star 4.10.60).

1960 - Dr. Verwoerd: "We must create a Republic in which we can all co-operate in truly building our South African nation...We should combine and protect ourselves". Letter dated 21.9.60 to all voters.

## 3. WHAT WERE THE RESULTS OF THE WHITES ONLY REFERENDUM?

	<u>For a Republic</u>	<u>Against a Republic</u>
Cape	271 418	269 784
Transvaal	406 632	325 041
Natal	42 299	135 598 (majority against)
Orange Free State	110 171	33 438
South West Africa	19 938	12 017
	<u>850 458</u>	<u>775 878</u>

76% of the voters in Natal were against the Republic.

## 4. WHAT IS THERE TO CELEBRATE?

### 4.1. Democracy?

Only 19% of the population in South Africa has the vote and the government they elect determines the fate of the other 81%.

### 4.2. Justice?

\* There is no justice in Education

Four separate and unequal educational systems create duplication and wastage

		Black	Coloured	Indian	White
Per capita	1978-79	R71	R197	R357	R724
Expenditure	1979-80	R91	Not avail.	R390	R889

**PACSA**

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\* There is no justice in Land Distribution

14% of the land has been allocated to the black people by the white government while it has retained 86%.

\* There is no justice in Resettlement (see statement by Bishop Russell below)

\* There is no justice in certain laws, e.g. The Group Areas Act; the Pass Laws and Influx Control (including curfew laws); the Bantu Homelands Citizenship Act; the Population Registration Act.

4.3. Prosperity? See PACSA Fact Sheets on Hunger, Malnutrition and Distribution of Income

- 'The inflation rate soared to a recent high in March...The food only index went up by 29,87%.' (RDM 23.4.81).
- 'Housing backlog of 200 000 units for Blacks, Indians and Coloureds.' (RDM 15.4.81).
- 'Last year when gold earned us an extra R7 780 million it is believed that 50 000 children died in the rural areas from starvation.' (S.Tr. 19.4.81).
- 'Only 1,2% of the African population receive old age pensions (R33 p.m.) as opposed to 3,14% of the whites (R109 p.m.)

4.4. Peace and Security?

- Protests, riots, school boycotts, strikes, sabotage and unrest are a part of South African life - e.g. Soweto 1976, Eastern and Western Cape '77/78, Pmb., Kimberley, Sasol, Silverton 1980; Durban 1981.
- Almost R2 000 Million Rands were budgeted for Defence 1980/81.
- 42 Political prisoners have died in detention since 1963, including Steve Biko, Mapetla Mohapi, Joseph Mdluli...

5. AS CHRISTIANS CAN WE CELEBRATE?

- o "The Catholic Church has made it clear that it is opposed to playing any role in the Republic Festival...Archbishop Denis Hurley said, 'the reason for the ban was that the great majority of Catholics in South Africa had nothing to celebrate which had brought them joy, peace or prosperity' ". (Natal Mercury 6.2.81).
- o "The Most Revd. Bill Burnett, Archbishop of Cape Town and head of the Church of the Province of South Africa has said Anglican Bishops believed the Church could not identify itself with the celebrations...This was 'for the simple reason that the majority of its Church members cannot affirm the society in which they find themselves' ". (Daily News 8.4.81).
- o The Rt. Revd. Philip Russell, Bishop of Natal, wrote, 'The CPSA finds itself in conscience bound unable to take part in it. How could it with so many of its children suffering because of the ordering of society under the present State? Take one aspect alone, just one. Up to mid-1979, 2 005 000 people have been moved in terms of the resettlement schemes. 1 727 000 face resettlement.'  
(Bishop's Newsletter April 1981).
- o "The Revd. B.K. Dlodla, Chairman of the Durban & District Council of Churches, (and United Congregational Church Minister) said, 'To rejoice with the Nationalist and Afrikaner is far from the Black man's heart'. He said it was a touchy and sensitive area and it was not fair to ask Blacks to be associated in prayer for a Republic which had already been truncated into separate States". (Natal Mercury 6.2.81).
- o The President of the Methodist Church in South Africa, the Revd. H. Kirkby, stated in Durban 11.2.81, 'This is an event which the members of the Church are bound to approach with mixed feelings, since so many of them belong to a constituency who, in the first place were never approached to express their opinion as to whether they wished for South Africa to become a Republic or not'.
- o Extract from a South African Council of Churches Resolution on the Republic Festival: '...for the three-quarters of South Africa as constituted in 1910 there is nothing to celebrate. Rather the reverse. The past 20 years have seen intensified oppression, to the extent that the land is being fragmented and the Black population eliminated by means of the homelands...*We request leaders of all Churches to call on their members and the society as a whole to treat May 1981 as a penitential season...when people will be called to confess their sins, personal and social, to mourn for the innocent victims of such sins, and turn to God in repentance so that they may receive a message of forgiveness and hope and restoration*'. (Kairos March 1981).