

Broad front of socialist groups?

AZAPO has called on resistance groups to unite before negotiating with the government.

By Cassandra Moodley

THE Azanian People's Organisation has called for a broad front of socialist organisations to unite to "fashion out a socialist agenda for liberation".

This was urged at the organisation's ninth national congress held in March at the Shareworld complex in Johannesburg with the theme, "Reconstruct for a socialist Azania".

Newly elected Azapo president Dr Itumeleng Jerry Mosala said the "200 delegates and about 7 000 observers at the congress" reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to socialism and resolved to initiate a conference of socialist organisations soon.

In his keynote address at the meeting, Mosala called for an "alternative conference of left and socialist formations and organisations - a conference independent of liberation organisations who are comfortable with the status quo - in order to evolve a united programme of action for intensifying the struggle".

Organisations could include the Cape Action League, Action Youth and union groupings and movements committed to socialism.

Azapo sees this as the only way to block a negotiated settlement.

The congress deliberated over participating in negotiations but unanimously rejected the idea.

"Azapo believes President FW de Klerk's negotiation package will not be acceptable to black people once they understand the true nature of his offer, and it cannot be absorbed into our programme for liberation," said Mosala.

"The South African regime still retains political, military and economic power over the liberation forces. Hence the timing for negotiations is premature and therefore cannot deliver the expected revolutionary change."

At present talks would benefit a few elitist groups, the Azapo resolution stated. It would also revitalise the capitalist system which was showing signs of collapse and create confusion and conflict between different organisations.

"Negotiations should take place among resistance organisations of the black people, not with the ruling class," said Mosala.

The incoming central committee was urged at the congress to address unity with other oppressed organisations.

When Pam will talk to the government

THE Pan-Africanist Movement is contemplating nationalisation on a grand scale, affecting all big business in the country, says Mr Benny Alexander, Pam general secretary.

"We are not going to nationalise the boerewors trolley on the street corner. But big industries which go to the heart of the economy and such things will have to be subjected to a planned economy so that everybody is benefited by that."

He said the pillars of Pam policy were African nationalism, scientific socialism and continental unity.

The economic policy was socialism, a planned economy within the context of a political democracy. Pam did not believe totalitarianism was inherent in a planned economy.

On negotiations, Alexander said Pam was prepared to talk to the government on the ownership of resources - of which land was primary - and one person, one vote in a unitary state without checks and balances for groups.

"Unlike the ANC, we do not make a distinction between a climate, preconditions and an agenda. These two items constitute for us our climate, our preconditions, our agenda, our everything."

The land, which had been taken from the African people, had to be returned to its "rightful owners" through decolonisation.

"The land is not confined to a peasant understanding of the land. It implies the means of production, the totality of the resources," Alexander said.

Asked whether this included factories and financial institutions, he replied: "Everything."

Whites were running the economy in the interests of foreign capital. An insignificant part of the economy was in the hands of Afrikaners.

Alexander said Pam was non-racial and was building one nation - "an Afri-

can nation, where everyone who pledges allegiance to Africa, its development and its people will be an African, and the colour of a person's skin will be irrelevant".

"We propose the Africanisation of all institutions - learning and all other things."

"We regard the United Democratic Front and ANC as sister organisations, but their friends are not necessarily our friends."

He described Pam's constitution as "quasi-federal", having both affiliate organisations and card-carrying members.

The most important affiliates were the youth affiliate, Azanian National Youth Unity (Azanyu), the Pan-Africanist Student Organisation (Paso), the African Women's Organisation (Awo) and the African Labour Co-ordinating Committee (Alcoc).

These four national affiliates were represented on the national executive.

Responding to the question whether Pam accepted white members, Alexander said: "We do not accept in Pam any people who regard themselves as white or any people who regard themselves as black."

"We only take those who regard themselves as African in terms of our definition. An African is defined as someone who is indigenous or who pays his daily allegiance to Africa, its people and its development, and accepts straightforward democratic practices."

On Pam's international relations, Alexander says its strongest allies would be in the Non-Aligned Movement.

The organisation would look at smaller, leftist and Pan-Africanist organisations in the West.

Pam would not regard Western governments as allies - although Norway was "quite open".

(With acknowledgment to *South and Work in Progress*.)

In a resolution on internecine violence, the congress decided to plan an all-in consultative conference of resistance organisations to try to find a solution in Natal, Uitenhage and Bekkersdal.

Other important resolutions included a call for the international community to intensify sanctions, an intensification of the struggle for land, the workers' struggle, the women's secretariat, black theology and media relations.

The central committee includes founder members of the Black Consciousness Movement who have spent up to six years on Robben Island after being convicted of terrorism. They are: Azapo deputy president Dr Nchaupe Mokoape, general secretary Pandelani Nefolovhodwe, publicity secretary Strini Moodley, and projects co-ordinator Muntu Myeza.

(With acknowledgement to *Weekly Mail*)