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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Observer Mission to the United Nations

ANC PRESS STATEMENT ON PIK BOTHA'S CALL FOR CODESA TO GO

The African National Congress is determined that the negotiation process move forward with maximum speed to elections for a Constituent Assembly, as already agreed in the Record of Understanding with the National Party.

The Codesa forum is one that is inclusive, whereby all organisations, irrespective of size or proven support, are free to participate fully and equally in deliberations to chart the way forward.

The statement by Pik Botha, after the bilateral meeting with the PAC in Gaborone, that Codesa must go to make way for a more representative forum, is another blatant attempt to delay, if not completely stall, the process.

It is highly regrettable that the PAC should lend its weight to this call, which, if it was to be accepted, would considerably delay the date of an election for a Constituent Assembly.

Any such delay can only exacerbate the climate of violence, economic insecurity and instability that prevails. For the sake of the future of the country a date for elections should be set, so that a truly representative body that reflects the will of the people is established through a Constituent Assembly.

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