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APARTHEID STRUCTURES STILL INTACT

- In spite of all the changes in South Africa lately, we have not moved an inch from where we were in 1960, before the ANC was banned. The Apartheid-legislation is still untouched, and the real test for President F.W. de Klerk will be if he will be able to change this legal system, says Pius Langa, President of National Association of Democratic Lawyers.

He is representing the political prisoners that recently were on hunger strike on Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for years. He was also at the Children's Conference in Harare in 1987, where children's life under apartheid was highlighted.

Langa will not deny that de Klerk is moving in the right direction and that the climate has improved in South Africa lately.

- But the oppressive and racist law system is still there, and it is being used. De Klerk can control everything, at the same time he gives the world the impression that he is a liberal.

- Internationally de Klerk is out of the cold. Still he has far from done much on Human Rights as the International Community should demand. Improvements have come as a result of internal and external pressure. If one eases that pressure now, the changes will come much slower, Langa points out.

STILL FAR TO GO

- De Klerk is still talking about segregation and group-rights, but still not about integration. Only when apartheid legislation is removed, we can start building a new nation. It is only then we can start breaking down the enormous divisions amongst the races, says Langa.

- Group-rights are about the economic privileges of the whites, which they fear they will lose. We do acknowledge the fear of the whites. But this will not stop us from doing something about the unfair distribution of resources in South Africa. Until now, nationalization has been ANC's answer on how the distribution of resources can be solved. But that is only one of many means. It is not necessary the best, says Langa.

He will not exclude that the positive development may turn.

- Maybe it is to exaggerate, but until apartheid is completely abolished, I think it is possible for the development to turn back. De Klerk may again cross his Rubicon, says Langa.