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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS(SOUTH AFRICA)

Department of Information and Publicity

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FOR PRESS RELEASE ON THE RESULTS OF THE
BOGUS CISKEI INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM.

The results of the bogus Ciskei Independence Referendum have been announced by none other than Chief Lennox Sebe a well-known Pretoria yes-man. It is said that 49.5 per cent of the so-called Ciskeians voted and that 98 per cent of these voted in favour of independence for the Ciskei.

Not very long ago a certain Quail Commission which was set up by the Ciskei puppet regime itself, to look into "the practical feasibility, considering all political, economic and social aspects, of independence for the Ciskei" reported as recently as February this year that 90% of the people in the Ciskei rejected independence and went on to say that "the vast majority of the Xhosa feel that current homeland autonomy has been irrelevant and meaningless in their lives". The fascists could not countenance such a rebuff by the people - the "referendum" had to be cooked and a fake "YES" vote solicited.

What Chief Sebe omitted to announce on this day is that the parties that drew up the terms of and conducted the referendum have no right whatsoever to conduct any referendum in any part of South Africa. The Pretoria regime is itself a minority illegal regime let alone Sebe and his cohorts who are hired to run a puppet show for the benefit of their racist masters.

We say that an illegal regime cannot conduct a legal referendum, and no amount of persuasion, coercion or referendum can make any of their positions acceptable, therefore the results of this bogus referendum and what will follow from it will be treated by us with the scorn it deserve.

The whole exercise is an attempt by Pretoria to justify the criminal Bantustan policy by giving it a seemingly democratic image. As part of the deceit, so-called independent witnesses were hurried to the Ciskei to go and witness dispossessed people voting for further dispossession. It is a painful humour at the expense of the lives of our people.

The people of South Africa are engaged in a life and death struggle for the total liberation of the whole country. That struggle will continue to escalate and we are sure of the final victory. It is our revolutionary duty not only to reject the results of the referendum but to see to the total destruction and liquidation of the evil system that brought it into being.

Referendum or not, the struggle continues and a democratic non-racial and united South Africa will emerge out of the ruins of Apartheid. Amandla!

Signed: SIZAKELE SIKHASE
(Secretary for the Department
of
Information and Publicity).