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A NUMSA GUIDE TO YOUR FIRST DEMOCRATIC ELECTION

These are answers to questions you asked at factory general meetings and Workers' Forums.

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1. Where does NUMSA stand on the elections?	Every member is free to join any political party. NUMSA will encourage its members to vote ANC because it wants a strong govern- ment to fix up the country's and workers' problems. NUMSA members must not force anyone to vote for the ANC or any other party. NUMSA members must be free to vote (or not vote) for whoever they want.	
2. Do I have to vote?	It is your right to vote; it is also your right not to vote. BUT you may not force anyone to vote or not vote.	
3. Where do I vote?	Voting stations will be in places like schools, community halls. Ask and discuss with your fellow workers, ask at NUMSA or COSATU offices, listen to your radio, look for posters and pamphlets nearer election time to find out.	
4. I work in Jhb, but my home is Natal. How do I vote for my region?	If you want to vote for the regional govern- ment in your home region, you must go home. Discuss with fellow workers so you can make arrangements to go back home together to vote. Push your boss to give you time off.	6. How do I vote? Look at the diagram above to help you under- stand.
5. I am frightened to vote in my area. There are many people threatening us that if we vote, they will get us.	Report any threats or intimidation to your political party, or your union office. They will refer the matter to the IEC to investigate and to prosecute. The NPKF and the SADF will protect you when you go to vote and after voting.	 Show your ID. It will be stamped. Put your right hand into a little box. This will show if you have already voted. If you have not voted before, they will put your hand into another box. This will put invisible ink on your hand to show you have voted. (NO-ONE ELSE CAN SEE THIS INK) Get your ballot paper. The first ballot is for
THE NEW GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES		the National Government.

On the next page is a diagram of the new government structures and their composition and what processes must happen over the next five years. Here we answer some more questions on these issues:
Make only one cross next to the party that you are voting for. Fold it so that people can't see your vote.
Put it in the box.

6. What powers do the new government structures have under the Interim Constitution?

• National Assembly and Senate: Their job is to pass laws. Each body will sit separately and has to agree to the law by ordinary majority. Some laws will need a two thirds majority of both bodies e.g. changes to the powers of the provinces, changes to the Interim Constitution, laws relating to finances.

• Constitutional Assembly (CA): The National Assembly and the Senate will meet together in the CA to draft a new Constitution.

• Cabinet (Government of National Unity - GNU): This body will be in power until the elections in 1999. It is called a GNU because the party that wins the most votes will not get all the seats in the Cabinet. Instead seats will be shared proportionally amongst all parties winning more than 20 seats. Decision making will be on the basis of consensus to encourage all parties to rebuild our battered country. After the elections in 1999, the party with the most votes will become the new government. There will not be a GNU anymore.

• Provincial Government:

Each province can make laws for its own province. It cannot make laws

that override laws that affect the whole country. The province will be allocated a share of money collected nationally.

• Get the next ballot paper. The second ballot

is for the Regional Government. (It is not

• Make a cross next to the party that you are voting for. Fold it so that people can't see your

your second choice!)

9 Put it in the box.

vote.

7. How will the new Constitution be drawn up?

The CA will draw up the New Constitution. It has two years to draw it up. The CA has to agree to the new Constitution by a two thirds majority, it must stick to the Constitutional Principles laid down by the Interim Constitution, it must send the draft New Constitution to the Constitutional Court for approval before it can be adopted.