

What Republic Day is all about

Here we are, "celebrating" Republic Day.

What are we doing here?

What is there to celebrate?

Are we celebrating:

1. That half of the children born in a typical African reserve die from starvation — diseases before they are five years old? We can celebrate that we ourselves are lucky enough to be alive?
2. That on an average, South Africa has more people in prison, and more people put to death, than any other Western country?
3. That people can be put away in jail, without ever being tried in a law-court, and without their families ever knowing about it?
4. That we aren't free to choose our own friends, just because their skin happens to be a different colour?
5. That a person can be left to bleed to death in the street, just because the wrong colour ambulance comes to fetch him?
6. That our history text-books are full of half-truths, that try to make the government look good?
7. That thousands of people aren't allowed to take a job, even though there are thousands of jobs just waiting to be filled?
8. That the government tells South Africans to stop spending so much, and to stop asking for more money — and then goes and gives itself double the salary that it used to?
9. That two people have to go to jail because they love each other, but are never allowed to get married?
10. That the government pays R285.85 every year for the schooling of each one of us, as well as giving us free books, while it pays only R14.48 for every African pupil, and expects them to buy their own books, when most of them don't even have money to buy enough food?
11. That the government, because of its dreadful pass-laws, breaks up families, separating husbands from wives, and children from parents?
12. That millions of rand are being spent on these celebrations, while hundreds of children are dying because they don't have a cent for a cup of milk.

How can we possibly celebrate such unfairness in South Africa? We all love our country, but we can't celebrate anything until everything is improved, until we have a new government that will let everybody in South Africa have an equal chance to earn a living and raise a family.

Our country's motto is *Ex Unitate Vires* — out of Unity comes Strength.

We must have unity in our country. All men are brothers. We must come together, rather than remain apart as the government want us to.

Only in this way can there be peace and love in our country, instead of hatred and suspicion. Only then can we celebrate, but at the moment we can only mourn.