

Political Situation after the Elections from the Perspective of the Born-Free Generation.

Introduction

Hello, everyone. Today, I want to talk about the political situation after the elections from the perspective of the semi-born-Free Generation (Gen X). As someone who was born 10 yrs before 1994, meaning I grew up in a so called 'democratic' South Africa, and I believe our generation has a unique perspective on the current state of politics.

Expectations vs. Reality

During the dawn of 'democracy' we were promised and hopeful that really the new government will give the poor and marginalised a better life as their slogan still says ' **a better life for all**', one free from the shackles of apartheid and filled with equal opportunities. However, the reality is far from it. We're faced with high unemployment rates, corruption, and poverty. The promises made by our leaders seem to be nothing more than empty words.

Frustration and Apathy

Many of us are frustrated with the current political system. We feel like our voices aren't being heard, and our concerns are being ignored. As a result, a lot of people especially young people (Gen Z), have become apathetic, choosing not to participate in the political process (elections) because over the years elections have proven not to make any difference. On the same breath some movements of the marginalized have been asking questions such as, ' how can they use the electoral system as a tool to punish the government of the day , by not voting the ruling part but to vote the opposing parties as sign to weaken them'. Organisations such as Abahlali basemjondolo (shackdwellers movement) have taken this position which a lots of left organisations thinks it's a mistake and they been criticize a lot for doing so. I feel we need to engage; we need to hold our leaders accountable (use the opportunity when they are campaigning), and we need to demand change.

The Rise of New Players

The recent elections in May 2024, have shown us that there's a shift in the political landscape. New parties are emerging, and resulted in having what is called a GNU (government of national unity). A lot of people have hoped that now that the ANC is no longer leading alone , this will yield a good and promising political response . However, with the GNU we have witnessed a rise in right wing mentality . However not is all bad with the GNU as the level of engagement between politicians and Civil Society organisations (CSO's) have improved as they are now accessible to be engaged. Young people are looking for fresh perspectives, for leaders who understand their struggles and their aspirations. That's why political parties such as EFF have been more popular to the young people as they are not voting with emotions but voting for parties that's speaks their language .

The Power of Activism

We, as the middle -age and younger Generation, have the power to effect change. We've seen it in the #FeesMustFall movement, in the protests against gender-based violence, and in the fight for climate justice and many other struggles . We need to build and strengthen the power from below by continuing to organize, to mobilize, and to demand action from our leaders. But most importantly as much as we are engaging those who are occupying the political office , we need to remember that there is no messiah that will save us.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the political situation after the elections is complex, but it's not hopeless. As the generations that grew up after 1994, we have the power to shape our own destiny. We need to stay engaged, stay informed, and continue to push for change. We deserve a better future, and we're the only ones who can create it.