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African National Congress Youth League

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20/2/91

TO. SAPA PR WIRE SERVICE
FROM: ANC YOUTH LEAGUE
ATT: NEW EDITOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Re: Burial of the late Comrade Bachana Mokoena

The deceased former Secretary for Finance and Projects of the ANC Youth League, .Comrade Bachana Mokoena, ana his brother Alfred will be buried at Madidi Village outside Garankuwa cn Sunday 24 February 1991, The two will be laid to rest next to their parents.

The funeral service will take place from 7am at Stand no 5694, Zone 4 Extension, Garankuwa. This is next to Mashego Undertakers,

The funeral procession will leave for Rama Section, near Mamonwana Primary School, Madidi, at 12 noon.

Busses to the funeral will leave from Darr&gh House, 13 wanderers Street, Johannesburg, at 6pm on Saturday 23 February 1991,

A memorial service for Comrade Bachana Mokoena will be held in Johannesburg on Friday 22 February 1991. It will take place in * the basement o* the Allied Building, cnr Bree and Rissik Streets at 1 pm.

Those Interested in attending the Comrade Bachana's funeral can contact the following numbers: (011) 403-3452/6 or (011.) 337-

7215/6,

P. Mankahlana

Secretary for Publicity and Information
ANC Youth League

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OBITUARY

BACHANA MATTHEWS MOKOENA

Bachana Matthews Mokoena was born on 26 October 1954 in Lady Seltiourne, Pretoria. He was the sixth child of the late Mr Job Simon Mokoena and Mrs Frada Malebo Mokoena.

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After finishing his early education at Mamanwiina Primary School he proceeded to Rantailane Secondary School and went on to matriculate at Hebron Training College, outside Pretoria. He then pursued a BComm degree at the University of the North but could not complete this due to political harassment. He left Turfloop to take up a post as a private teacher at Rantailane Secondary.

It was during this period, in the late seventies, that he became instrumental in the formation of the Human Rights Congress (HRC), which was subsequently banned. His active role in the HRC led to his detention, along with other HRC leaders, and torture by the Bophuthatswana police. On his release in 1978 he escaped to Botswana to avoid further arrest.

In Botswana, cde Bachana continued teaching in a private school. Towards the end of 1981 he married Miriam who had left the country with him in 1978. They are blessed with two children, Marumo (11 years) and Refiioa (10 years).

Towards the end of the seventies, cde Bachana, together with veteran cultural activists such as cde Wally Serote, Prof Keorapetse Kgositsile, Mandla Langa, the late Thami Mnyale and others founded the Medu Cultural Group. This proved very successful in promoting 'the active involvement of cultural workers in the struggle for national liberation'. It was Medu which organised the historic "Culture for Resistance" conference in Gaborone, Botswana, in 1982.

Due to his unquestionable dedication to the revolutionary struggle, cde Bachana left Gaborone to undergo military training in Angola and became a member of Umkhonto we Sizwe. On completion of

his basic military preparation, he was called to serve in the ANC Department of Arts and Culture (DAC). He travelled extensively with the ANC's Amadla Cultural Ensemble as its official spokesperson on many of its trail blazing tours abroad. .

His ability as an organiser also saw him assigned the additional task of helping the structures in charge of servicing units, both in the front areas as well as inside the country. 3

During his term of service in the DAC, cde Bachana also found time to write several articles on culture and an anthology of poems. It was his dream to see this anthology published.

Bachana Mokoena was a person of boundless energy and several inclinations. He was an avid reader, a keen jazz fan and a tireless organiser. On top of this he was devoted to the discipline

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at commerce and accounting. As a result of this he was invited to serve on the ANC's National Fundraising Committee in the office of the Treasurer General.

At the 1967 ANC Youth Section Conference in Tanzania, Cde Bachana was elected to the National Youth Secretariat to serve as the Secretary for Finance and Projects, a position he held until his inclusion in the Task Force that was created to take charge of the process of re-establishing the ANC Youth League inside the country. He returned to South Africa on a temporary clearance permit in October 1990.

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As the Secretary for Finance and Projects in the Provisional National Youth Committee, Cde Bachana acquitted himself diligently. He has a special love for the people and had every confidence in the ability of all our youth to carry the struggle forward. He lived and died for us all on that fateful day, February 17. As a promising poet, he would agree emphatically with Bertolt Brecht:

"A victory on every page

Who cooked the feast?

A great man every decade
Who paid the bills?

Lots, of facts

Lots of questions!

From: Questions of a Worker Reading History.

ANC YOUTH LEAGUE

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY