

F g 213]9)
a boost

By Sithembiso Sangwehi
THE formation of a Patriotic Front
is fast gaining momentum fol-
lowing a consultative meeting of |
joint executives of the Azanian 1
Peopleâ\200\231s Organisation (Azapo),
the Black Consciousness Move- |
ment of Azania (BCMA) and the
Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) |
in Zimbabwe last week.

Azapoâ\200\231s president Pandelani
Nefolovhodwe said agreement has
been reached on the way forward
to â\200\230eradicating the racist colonial
system.â\200\231

The agreement was reached
at a meeting of the joint execu-
tives of the three liberation
movements held in Kadoma,
Zimbambwe.

Azapo, BCMA and PAC re-
solved to work towards the estab-
lishment of a broad-based prin-
cipated Patriotic Front, according
to Nefolovhodwe.

The three organisations re-
Jected talks about talks as not
being substantive and re-itererated
that the only mechanism that could
genuinely democratise the sys-
. tem â\200\230in our country is the Con-

stituent Assembly elected on a
one person, one vote basis.â\200\231

It was further resolved that:
â\200\234The only kind of negotiations
that Azapo, BCMA and PAC will *
be amenable to is to discuss the
transfer of power from the minor-
ity to the majority through an
elected constituent assembly.â\200\231

It was also resolved that all
forms of struggle including the
armed struggle will be maintained
and that the call for the mainte-
nance of sanctions against South
Africa will be intensified.

In response to the continuing
violence, the joint executives felt
that all mercenary forces in the
country like the Buffalo Battal-

lion 32, Koevoet and Renamo
bandits should be unmedxately
expelled.

The three orgamsauons com-
mitted themselves to joint cam-
paigns by consulting re gularly in
order to exchange information and
to lobby jointly mlemally and
internationally for their common

positions.

~ The three organisation con-
cluded that all political prisoners
who are â\200\230still held in the dun-
geons of apartheidâ\200\231 should be
granted general amnesty.

â\200\230Those in prison or in exile
were motivated by the highest
human ideals of resisting inhu-

man repression,â\200\231 choloyhodwe

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â\200\234Ramodike clal

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LEBOWAKGOMO.

The suspension of Lebo-
wa Chief Minister Nelson -
Ramodikeâ\200\231s membership
of the ANC Lebowakgo-
mo branch would strain
his relationship with the
organisation, Mr Ramo-
dike said yesterday

â\200\234My suspension by the
Lebowakgomo branch of
the ANC was made in a
vacuum_ and I consider
that to be very undemo-
cratic.

â\200\234The world should note
that I have never received
any official notification to
the effect that I am sus-
pended,â\200\235 Mr Ramodike
said.

Mr Ramodike said the
s , followed his

announcement last, week

that ANC president Mr
Nelson Mandela was to

address a Congress of
Traditional Leaders of
SA meeting at the Lebo-
wakgomo showgrounds.
â\200\234If what the media says
is true, my suspension
came as a result of the an-
nouncement that the
president of the ANC

would address Magoshi
(traditional chlefs), I am
wondering whether such a
â\200\230statement constitutes a
â\200\230sinâ\200\231 and warrants suspen-
sion by a branch of a body
which had ... not been a
party to the convening of
a meeting of August 15,7
Mr Ramodike said.

He said he did not re-
oret that the ANC in the

c
tzâ\200\231aln

Northern Transvaal
wanted to distance itself

~ from him.

â\200\234I have together with
all traditional leaders and
the people in the North-
ern Transvaal established
a vehicle for ourselves to
take part in the Patriotic
Front, the multi-party
conference and finally ne-
gotiations.â\200\235 â\200\224 Sapa.

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carry

AN ACCUSED in the trial of three Umkhonto we Sizwe men, allegedly caught by members of the South African Police with weapons in their possession, said he told police that they had been * given permission to have the weapons by the Transkei Defence Force. The three were arrested in June near Staffords Post (between Kokstad and Umzimkulu) in Southern Natal, allegedly with machine-guns, grenades and ammunition in their possession.

s M Mzwandile Vena (35) of Umtata appeared before magistrate Mr J. Bester yesterday in the Port Shepstone Regional Court. He and Mr Mzimasi Hala (27) of Queenstown and Mr Sicelo Mantji (28) of Willowdale, Transkei, are appearing on charges of importing, supplying or possessing machine rifles and more than 500 rounds of ammunition, possession of three grenades and pistols, and

en permitted to

6-â\200\224 accused

Daily Nev@p s
Reporter

the theft of a Transvaal-registered Toyota Cressida.

~ The State alleges the men were arrested in South Africa but the three say they were in the Umzimkulu district of the Transkei at the time. The State has

called the evidence of
surveyors who said the
spot pointed out as the

point of arrest was in.
- South Africa.

Mr Vena said when po-
lice stopped the three ac-
cused on June 10 this
year, he told them they
had permission from the
military intelligence unit
of the Transkei Defence
Force to carry the weap-
ons.

He s'aid Constable Ro-
bert Thomson, a member
of the Crime Intelligence

Service, arrested the

three after locking all
the weapons in their pos-
session in the boot of
their car.

He said he asked the
policeman why he was
arresting him in the
Transkei. b |

Constable Thomson
had answered that it
made no difference
whether they were ar-
rested in Transkei .or
South Africa. e

He said that he and the
other two accused had
then been taken to Weza
police station. 41

Under cross-examina- |
tion by Mr Gareth Lep-
pan, for the State, Mr

Vena said he was a full-

time employee of the
African National Con-
gress, involved in the
â\200\234building upâ\200\235 of the or-
ganisation. S

Asked to comment on
the evidence of a Ser-
geant Stefanus Groen-
ewald, who testified ear-
lier that Mr Vena had
told him he was a lieu-
tenant in the Transkei
Defence Force, Mr Vena
said: â\200\234That is nonsense.â\200\235

â\200\230He added he had no con-

nection with the TDF. |

. The hearing continues

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today.

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The UDF b

political scene.

Former United Democratic Front (UDF) Natal publicity secretary, Lechesa Tsenoli, says farewell to the UDF on its final birthday this week Tuesday, August 20, as it quietly bowed from the

THIS week eight years ago a phenomenon was ushered in which changed the nature of South African resistance politics and which laid the basis for today's political gains in the quest for a free and democratic South Africa.

It has been eight years of defiant action against apartheid for which the African National Congress (ANC) and many South Africans have saluted the United Democratic Front (UDF) on its final birthday last Tuesday, August 20.

Rocklands Civic Centre in Mitchell's Plain near Cape Town in 1983 hosted the launch of the UDF, a front of trade union, community, women's, students, religious, sporting, political and other organisations saying NO to apartheid.

Several
Political bodies such as the RMC and the TIC - which popularised the Freedom Charter - played a pivotal role in the process ;

ERA E D B S SRR O B S SO

The economic recession of late 1979 and the early eighties gave rise and created the conditions upon which mass structures, especially in civic, trade union and political spheres, began to develop. This formed the womb

for the conception of the UDF.

Politically, bodies such as the Release Mandela Committee, the Natal and Transvaal Indian Congresses - which popularised the Freedom Charter - played a pivotal role in this process.

So did civic bodies such as Durban Housing Action Committee (DHAC), Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC),

the Soweto Civic Association

(SCA) and later, the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation (PEBCO).

Under the slogan 'Apartheid Divides, UDF Unites' and its graphic logo showing people from all walks of life symbolically marching defiantly the UDF scored a political first at its launch with its ability to bring together people of all races and from all walks of life.

From its inception the UDF categorically proclaimed in its working document that it did not see itself replacing the liberation movements

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When the UDF was finally launched, it was a significant triumph against the 'dirty tricks' campaign which sought to create confusion through pamphlets that bore false and misleading messages.

From its inception the UDF

categorically proclaimed in its working document that it did not

see itself replacing credible people's liberation movements.

It elected as its patrons former Rivonia trialists - the then ANC leaders in jail - as well as prominent clerics, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Dr Allan

Boesak, who delivered the final oration at the last UDF rally at Mitchell's Plain last Sunday.

Boesak is credited with having made the call for the need for a united front against apartheid at the anti-South African Indian Council (SAIC) conference in Lenasia.

In a declaration that preceded the adoption of the Freedom Charter (FC) and which became a binding document for all its affiliates the UDF stated in its ideals that it would:

- * cherish the vision of a united, democratic South Africa based on the will of the people;

- * strive for the unity of all people through united action against the evils of apartheid, economic and all other forms of exploitation.

- * stand for the creation of a

- " true democracy in which all South Africans will participate in the government of the country;

- * stand for a single non-racial, unfragmented South Africa - a South Africa free of bantustans and Group Areas;

- * say all forms of oppression

and exploitation must end.
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The emergence of the UDF

was however not welcomed by all, particularly in Ulundi and many other bantustans as well as Pre-

toria, where it became a |

serious challenge
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In order to take its message to all South Africans the UDF launched the Million Signature Campaign. Although the Cam-

-paign folded without a million signatures, it however succeeded in mobilising many South Africans against the tricameral parliament and the Koomhof bills including providing many within the UDF with valuable experience as well as opportunity to

work together among activists
unlike before.

The International Youth Year
in 1985 was seized upon by the
youth affiliates of the UDF popu-
larising the Front even further
under whose banner the year was
commemorated.

The emergence of the UDF
was however not welcomed by
all, particularly in Ulundi and many
other bantustans as well as Preto-
ria, where it became a serious
challenge.

Although a front of anti-apart-
heid organisations and not a po-
litical organisation per se, the UDF
played a powerful political role
campaigning not only against the

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apartheid grand design but also
against bread and butter issues
like high rents and housing.
Despite severe repression over
along period, the country and the
world was surprised at the level
of resistance still prevalent - in
particular the rejection of the tricam
system by the Indian and so-called
Coloured communities and the
rejection of the Koornhof bills by

â\200\234the African majority. This laid

the basis for the expression of
non-racial solidarity.
This demonstrable failure of

_ co-option was a rude shock to the
nationalists.

The mass detention of the
leadership and their subsequent
sit-in at the British Consulate in
Durban, including the Vaal Up-

other restricted extra-parliamentary bodies.

rising and the subsequent Treason Trials, focussed international attention on South Africa's repressive machinery and the resistance thereto.

S R e B S e SN EOR SE

Apartheid structures were collapsing in several towns and cities around the country and people were taking over vital areas of running townships like Port Alfred and Cradock

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Comered and frustrated the apartheid regime declared a partial and later a general state of emergency as a result of a clear qualitative emergence of what came to be called organs of peoples

power.

Under the slogan of 'from protest to challenge' and dynamising the ANC's call to make the country ungovernable, the UDF's Trevor Manuel said the country must be controlled by the people.

Apartheid structures were collapsing in several towns and cities around the country and people were taking over vital areas of running the townships such as in Port Alfred and Cradock.

The South African government intensified repression country-wide leading to several detentions and restrictions but this was met by equally intense resistance in the form of hunger strikes in jail and daring escapes to consulates and embassies.

The MDM's defiance campaign spearheaded by the DF and its affiliates led to the unbanning of the ANC, SACP, PAC, Azapo and

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JOIN ANC FOR

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PEACE & FREEDOM

ANC veterans who were released played an important role in building the UDF.

Throughout its campaigns the UDF popularised the ANC and its leadership both in exile and in jail.

The restrictions placed on the UDF by the regime simply led to the formation of the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) and the Joint Working Committee

These new structures represented not only the continuation of resistance but it also signified the maturation of the politics of resistance, especially unity in action.

Unity in action which was the catch-phrase of the UDF was realised in the campaigns organised by the MDM and the JWC including initiatives such as the Conference for a Democratic Future (CDF). -

The popularity of the MDM's defiance campaigns, including the earlier campaigns to occupy unoccupied land, was indicative of the success of mass campaigning developed by the UDF and its allies.

The UDF had its weaknesses and has often been severely criticized. Chief among these was its inability to cope with its own fast growth, the other has been described as its undemocratic style

of work and failure, particularly in Natal, to develop African leadership.

There is no doubt that the efforts to resolve these problems were not enough.

Weighed against positive achievements, however, these weaknesses pale in significance.

The February 2 developments are thus attributed to pressures marshalled by the UDF and its allies including those from other elements of the democratic opposition to apartheid.

The challenge is now with the alliance of the ANC, SACP and Cosatu including the patriotic front to take the struggle to even higher levels. It has indeed been a tumultuous eight years of defiant action against apartheid.

Opinion

Thursday, August 22, 1991

South Africa

Two significant

TWO important events took place in South Africa over the past few days. both of which has a direct bearing on the future of our country: The first event was the agreement reached between the South African Government and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. pertaining to the granting of amnesty and the return of exiles or returnees. It is possible that some clauses in this agreement might still be controversial in that the agreement does not appear to provide for blanket and unconditional amnesty to all and sundry as previously thought. Nevertheless the agreement is a step in the right direction in that it places the task of co-ordinating the return of these people in the hands of an international agency. This means that returnees associated with political organisations other than the ANC will now probably feel more inclined to utilise the services of the

U.N High Commissioner for Refugees.

Historically. the significance of the agreement might be that for the first time in many years a United Nations agency will establish an office in South Africa to perform a function which has to do with South Africa's internal affairs. Indeed, times do change. As Pik Botha, the Foreign Minister. said in announcing the agreement, one hopes that mutual trust will prevail so that this major obstacle to negotiation can ultimately be removed.

The second event was the publication in one Sunday newspaper of the details of the proposed multi-party peace agreement which is being facilitated by the preparatory committee of the National Peace Initiative. This committee consists of church and business leaders. The committee has expressed its concern that the press has prematurely publicised the pro-

posed agreement before leaders of the various parties involved have had time to study it. Nevertheless, what has so far been published is very encouraging for a number of reasons.

Firstly, it shows the determination of the facilitators and representatives of the parties concerned to rise above party political differences in the pursuit of peace. Credit is due to the ANC and IFP leaders at the peace talks for ignoring potentially disruptive events such as the Inkatha gate scandal and instead pursue peace for the benefit of their members. initial

fears that this scandal might disrupt the peace talks happily did not materialise.

Secondly, the agreement lays great emphasis on mechanisms on the ground that will implement the peace proposal. As far as I am concerned this is the crucial element that will determine the success or failure of the peace

by Oscar Dhlomo

events

initiative. Past initiatives tended to ignore this element and so they failed to produce peace and reconciliation. Hopefully, this time, we will have a reasonably successful outcome.

Thirdly, the code of conduct for political parties, if properly and objectively monitored will also enhance tolerance amongst the parties. Similarly, the code of conduct applicable to the police will hopefully assist the police in their work. For the first time the police will be able to operate with the approval and co-operation of the communities they serve. One hopes that this interaction and co-operation between the police and the public will go a long way towards improving the former's image - a crucially important pre-requisite for a smooth process of political transition.

o Dr Oscar Dhlomo is the Executive Chairman of the Institute for Multi-Party Democracy.