

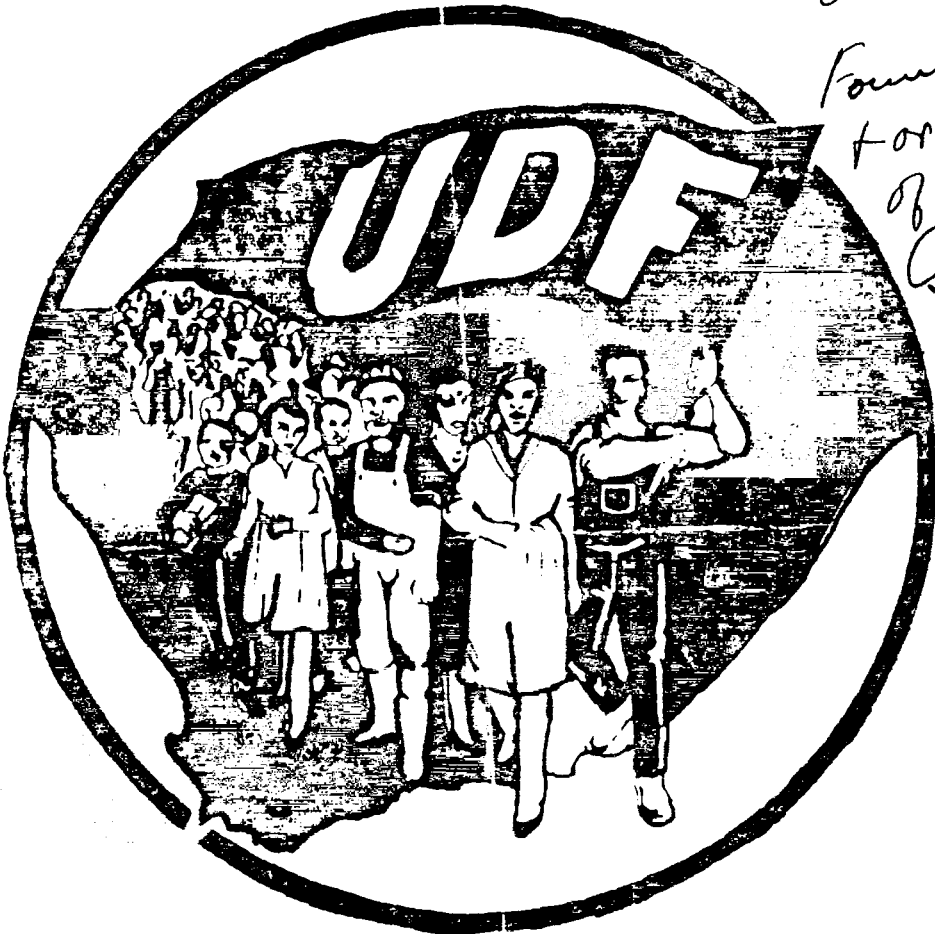
Arsonor.

Bill "AS"

39 AS  
①

# NATIONAL LAUNCH

20 AUGUST 1983 CAPE TOWN



Admission  
 Free in 'Pos  
 for under 16s  
 of UDF  
 Grahamstown

**UDF UNITES** – Apartheid divides!

**iUDF IYADIBANISA** – iApartheid iyahlula!

**UDF VERENIG** – Apartheid verdeel!

**iUDF YAKHA UBUMBANO** – iApartheid idala inhlukano

**UDF KE KOPANYO** – Apartheid ke kahlogango!

# MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

## *Irish Anti-Apartheid Committee*

The democratic socialist movement in Ireland welcomes and supports the launching of the United Democratic Front in defence of democracy and racial harmony in South Africa. The Irish Labour Party will continue to participate fully both in Ireland and within the international socialist movement in the fight against apartheid.

We embrace a united democratic front as brothers and sisters in the struggle for equality and justice and pledge to you our continuing support and solidarity.

## *Virgil Bonhomme – Vice-President of Durban Housing Action Committee*

*UDF reflects the unity that has been built through our struggles. Who could have said 5 years ago that it was possible to bring under one banner people of all races, from workers to students, from priests and businessmen, Nyanga to Chatsworth, to Soweto to Elsies River.*

## *Oscar Mpetha – President of Western Cape UDF*

We are all aiming at achieving a new South Africa. We cannot achieve that goal unless we unite. Unity is strength. The Nationalist Party is in pieces because it is threatened by the unity of the people. The more we unite the nearer we are to our goals.

## *Tiego Moseneke – President of AZASO*

*AZASO feels that a broad united and democratic front like the UDF is one of the means to counter the attempt to sugar-coat the bitter pill of apartheid for the oppressed and exploited.*

## *Thozamile Gqwetha – President of SAAWU*

UDF is the only organisation to bring together individuals and organisations who do not necessarily subscribe to the same political objectives, but who object to the P.C. and the Koornhof Bills.

UDF educates and mobilises people to unite in action.

## *Holland Committee on Southern Africa*

*The UDF represents for us not only a challenge to the infamous constitutional reforms, but the resurgence of mass-based non-racial resistance to racial oppression and economic exploitation in Southern Africa. We wish you every success in your endeavours and you have the assurance of our continued effort to curb the involvement of our country in bolstering the apartheid regime, politically and economically.*

**We must organise for our rights**

# A DAY OF UNITY

Today August 20, 1983 - we speak with the voice of unity. Each one of us here carries the hopes and dreams of our people. In our thousands, from every corner of the land, from town and country, we send out our call for freedom. On this day, we stand shoulder to shoulder so that South Africa and all the world may hear our voice. We have come to build a better life for ourselves and for our children in the land of our birth.

Down the road, the apartheid parliament is meeting to prepare its plans. Our rulers fear our unity. They do not want to hear our voice. At Mountview, at Fort Hare, they silence the questions of our youth. In Mdantsane, in Lamontville, in Orlando and KTC, they drive us from our homes like dogs. Apartheid stalks our land.

Now our rulers are inviting some of us to join them. They offer us a third-class seat in their apartheid train. For this, our children will fight on apartheid's borders, they will drive us to the bantustans where there is only hunger and death. In their parliament, they are talking of their constitution and the Koornhof Bills; but it is we who will pay the cost.

So we have gathered here to say NO. To refuse their plans. We are here to say that no-one can tell us what we want; it is we ourselves who must rule our lives.

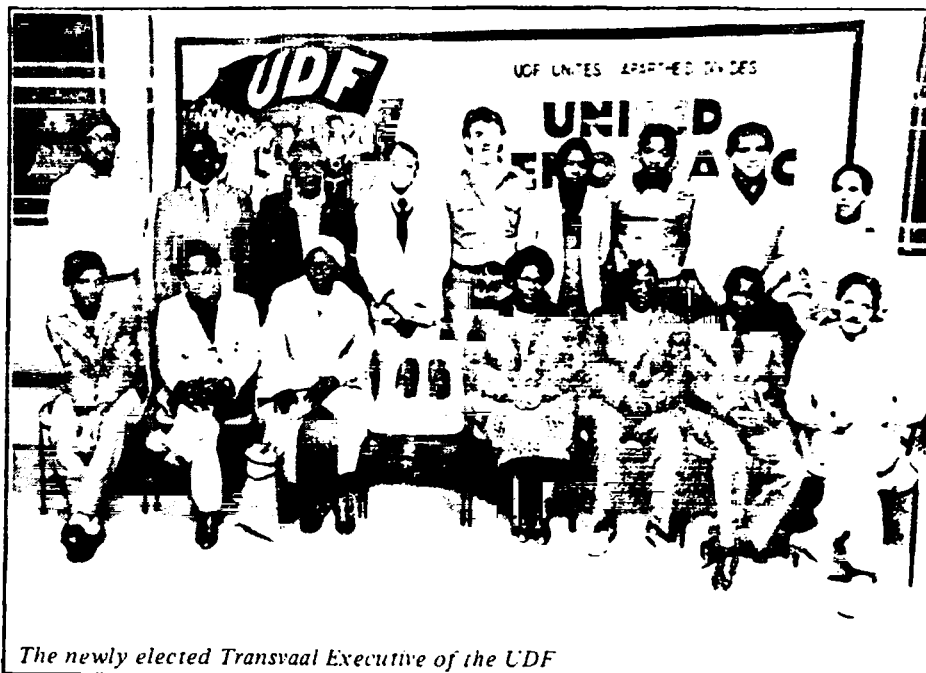
We have launched the UDF so that we may go forward in unity. Black and white, young and old, worker, student, priest : on this historic day we have begun our march!



*UDF leaders at the press conference announcing the national launch.*

Masizabalaze xasisodwa

# TRANSVAAL



*The newly elected Transvaal Executive of the UDF*

At a meeting in Johannesburg in June, 31 organisations met to form the General Council of the Transvaal United Democratic Front. Trade unions, student, women and church organisations united in their opposition to the Constitutional Proposals and Koornhof Bills. The Transvaal Council of the UDF consists of two representatives from each member organisation.

This meeting laid the groundwork for later election of the executive. In adopting a declaration, the organisations pledged their "unshakeable conviction in the creation of a non-racial, unitary state in a South Africa undiluted by racial or ethnic considerations as formulated in the Bantustans policy".

Discussion continued as more organ-

isations were drawn into the Front, each signing the declaration and continuing the process of educating its membership as to the reasons for rejecting the Constitutional Proposals and Koornhof Bills.

One of the newest members of the UDF is SOYCO (Soweto Youth Congress), formed recently to mobilise youth to play their rightful role in the struggle. Speakers at the formation included Oscar Mpetha, UDF Western Cape President, Albertina Sisulu, Transvaal UDF President, Dr Nihato Motlana, of the Soweto Committee of Ten and Smangaliso Mkatshwa of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference.

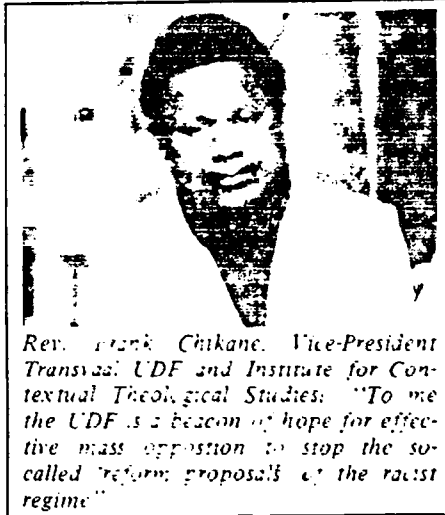
At a later meeting on August 6, the Transvaal UDF executive was elected.

**Qlu lumemezo nobizo lomanyano**

The members are: Albertina Sisulu, who is currently being held in police custody, as President, the Rev. Frank Chikane and Ram Saloojee of the Transvaal Indian Congress, Curtis Nkondo, former President of Azapo Hans Hlaethwa from Winterveld Action Committee and Elliot Shabangu, veteran trade unionist as Vice-Presidents, Popo Molefe and Mohamed Valli as joint secretaries, Rita Ndzanga, veteran trade unionist and Eric Molobi ex-Robben Island prisoner as joint treasurers, Mr M. Bokala, Gatsby Mazwi, Tom Mashinini, George du Plessis, Hoffman Galeng, chairperson, Huhudi Civic Association, David Mahopo, Francis Baard of the Federation of South African Women, Cassim Saloojee of the Transvaal Indian Congress, Herbert Barnabus of Saawu, Ismael Mohammed of the Anti-Presidents Council, Dr Nthato Motlana of the Committee of Ten, Moss Hlapane, the Rev. Cecil Behi of the Witwatersrand Council of Churches and Lloyd Vogelman of the Wits SRC.

state has thrown down the gauntlet to the oppressed to mobilise themselves to oppose harassment".

A massive 25 000 copies of the national newsletter, UDF News were distributed among the membership of affiliates. The executive and General Council representatives as well as 900 observers are attending the national launch.



Mr Ram Saloojee said after his election to the post of Vice-President: "The



Scenes of jubilation at the launching of the Soweto Youth Congress.

Ons moet saamstaan waar ons verdeel is

# NATAL

Allan Boesak's call for unity in the face of the government's constitutional proposals and Koornhof Bills fell on fertile ground in Natal.

In this region, a wealth of strong organisations had grown out of the struggles of the last few years. These include the Durban Housing Action Committee, the Joint Rent Action Committee and the Joint Commuters Committee. Having built these organisations, achieving unity among them seemed a logical next step.

After the Natal representatives returned from the Transvaal Anti-SAIC conference, they commenced a process of consultation with organisations and individuals. Broad meetings were held. Groups attending these meetings then popularised the idea of the UDF in their respective constituencies. At the third such meeting, which took place

in June, the Natal Regional Committee of the UDF was launched.

Following this, Committees of Concern were formed in each area to undertake the day to day activities of the campaigns. This committee recently held a workshop attended by over 250 people on the Koornhof Bills. At the workshop, four papers on various aspects of the three bills were presented.

In addition, a Finance Committee and a Publications Committee have been set up. A major step in the unifying process in Natal was a conference held under the auspices of the Durban Housing Action Committee and the Joint Rent Action Committee. Over 60 organisations attended the conference, which highlighted the effects the new Constitution and Koornhof Bills would have on communities.



Natal UDF Committee.

**We must organise for our rights**



Natal UDF General Council - May '83.

The conference unanimously rejected these bills as well as the new housing policy and resolved to support the UDF. A support campaign to strengthen the UDF has been launched with organisations being approached to sign the UDF declaration, house visits being undertaken and anti-PC mass meetings being held on different campuses.

One of the ways used to reach people with the message of UDF has been a play called "Masterplan", which deals with the reform proposals. It was produced by Mughal Naidoo and staged in different areas and on various campuses.

The following officials of the Natal regional committee were elected

- President: Archie Gumede
- Chairperson: Jerry Coovadia
- Vice-Chairperson: Virgil Bonhomme
- Treasurers: Rabbee Bagwan-deen, Victoria Mxenge

Other committee members are:

- Rev. Meibisi Xundu Paul David
- D.K. Singh Zac Jacob
- Jabu Sithole B.B Cele
- Hlengiwe Mgabale Johnny Mohlala
- Gwensa Mlaba Paddy Kearney
- Ann Colvin Coral Vincent
- Trevor Bonhomme Jeannie Noel

19  
18/1/87



*A long history of involvement led to the election of Archie Gumede as Natal UDF President. Mr Gumede was active in the mass campaigns of the fifties. More recently, he became the leader of the Release Mandela Committee which spearheaded the national campaign, a post which he still holds. He has worked closely with numerous Natal organisations, the Durban Housing Action Committee and the Joint Rent Action Committee to name but two.*

*'The government's new proposals are an admission that the present constitution has failed to preserve apartheid. They destined to fail in the wake of mounting resistance,' said Mr. Gumede.*

...usingisele

# WESTERN CAPE

IN Cape Town, the months of May and June were spent in intense consultation.

Representatives of organisations met repeatedly to discuss the idea of launching a UDF in the Western Cape. Questions of structure, of policy and strategy had to be solved. On all levels, people excitedly discussed the idea.

Finally, on July 24, over 400 delegates from 21 organisations met in the hall of St. George's Cathedral to constitute formally the Western Cape region of the UDF. Oscar Mpetha, respected community and worker leader, was elected president. He had only recently been released on R1 bail while waiting for his appeal against a five year sentence to be heard.

"We are all aiming at achieving a new South Africa", he said after his election.

"We cannot achieve this goal unless we unite. The National Party is in pieces because it is threatened by the unity of the people."

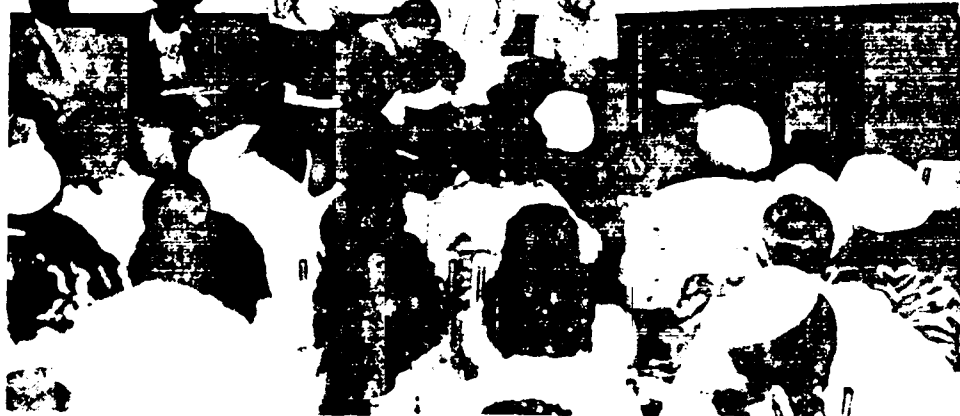
"I can safely say to the Nationalist government that the past is theirs but the future is ours", he added. At the launch, a draft declaration was adopted. In it, the organisations pledge "to fight side by side for freedom in our lifetime."

In the four short weeks since its launching on July 24, the Western Cape region has tackled huge organisational tasks.

The most pressing task was to prepare for the national launching of UDF. Accommodation, transport and food had to be organised for the thousands of people coming to Cape Town for this historic gathering.

AL PROPOSALS - NO TO KOORNHOF BILLS

A UNITED SOUTH AFRICA



Over 400 people crowded into St Georges Cathedral hall to launch the Western Cape Region of UDF on July 24

We must unite where we are divided



At the same time, a massive drive was launched to tell the people as they got off the trains. At night, other volunteers put up posters in the most prominent places. One week before the launch, a big youth rally was held in Mitchells Plain. It was organised jointly by Cosas, Azaso, Nusas, the Inter-Church Youth and the Cape Youth Congress.

About 1000 people attended, to listen to the music of Basil Coetzee, Jessica Sherman and others, to watch a play on the constitutional proposals and to hear 'Terror' Lekota, from Durban, speak about the role and duty of the youth.

In the outlying areas too, from Vredendal to Swellendam, excitement has been mounting. UDF is being discussed from pulpits and meetings are being held. In Cape Town and elsewhere, local representatives of the various member organisations are meeting to set up area committees. On this level, too, questions of role and strategy have to be thrashed out and the best organisational forms found. This process is seen as essential, since it is among the grassroots organisations that the strength of UDF has to be built.



Oscar Mpetha, veteran worker and community leader was unanimously elected first President of the Western Cape region of UDF. Oscar was recently released on R1 bail after spending three years in detention and on trial.



Saturday, 13 August saw a huge youth rally in the Rocklands Civic Centre.

W Cape Executive	
President :	Oscar Mpetha
Vice-Presidents :	Christmas Tinto Joseph Marks
Secretaries :	Trevor Manuel Cheryl Carolus
Treasurers :	Andrew Boraine Rashid Seria
Publicity Officer :	Baba Ngcokoto
Additional :	Mildred Lesia Ebrahim Rasool Chris Nissan Jonathan de Vries Sheik Nazeem Mohamed David Peterson Trevor Oosterwyk

**Ons moet ons organisasies versterk**



# UNITED

UDF stands for the unity of all people fighting for a free and democratic South Africa. The government is trying to divide and confuse us with its constitutional proposals and Koornhof Bills. It wants to create divisions between Coloured, Indian and African people, between people in the towns and the rural areas. It wants us to believe it is changing things to improve our lives. More than ever before, our people need unity to oppose these plans. We must show that we will not be divided. We must join together so that we can go forward to build the South Africa we want.



# DEMOCRATIC

UDF believes in a South Africa free of apartheid. UDF believes in a government based on the will of the people because South Africa belongs to all who live in it. UDF believes that real change can only come about through the active involvement of all our people. UDF rejects the constitutional proposals and Koornhof Bills because they are designed to strengthen apartheid and were drawn up with no regard for the demands of the people.

# FRONT

UDF is a front made up of many different organisations. We work among different groups, among students, among women, workers, youth, tenants, believers. Among us there are different approaches to the problems that confront us. But we come together because we share the common aim of a just and democratic South Africa and a willingness to work together to achieve that aim. We will carry on working in our different areas, in our different ways, and come together on common issues. Here lies the strength of the UDF : only if each organisation is strong in its area will UDF be strong.

**Ons moet saamstaan waar ons verdeel is**

# UDF UNITES US!

## TRANSCAAL

### LABOUR ORGANISATIONS

- General and Allied Workers Union
- Municipal and General Workers Union
- Council of Unions of South Africa
- South African Allied Workers Union
- Commercial and Catering Workers Union of South Africa
- S A Mineworkers Union
- Johannesburg Scooter Drivers Association

### CIVIC ORGANISATIONS

- Soweto Civic Associations
- Huhudi Civic Association
- Mohalakang Civic Association
- Kagiso Residents Organisation
- Winterveld Action Committee
- East Rand Peoples Organisation
- Soweto Residents Association
- Mamelodi Action Committee

### POLITICAL

- Committee of Ten
- Transvaal Indian Congress
- Transvaal Anti-President's Council Committee
- Anti-Community Council Committee

### YOUTH AND STUDENTS

- Azanian Students Organisation
- Congress of South African Students
- National Union of South African Students
- Young Christian Students
- Young Christian Workers
- Soweto Youth Congress
- Catholic Students Association
- Reservoir Hills Ratepayers Association

### CHURCH

- Witwatersrand Council of Churches
- Islamic Council of South Africa

## WOMEN

- Federation of South African Women

## OTHERS

- Detainees Aid Movement
- National Educational Union of South Africa
- Detainees Parents Support Committee
- Khuvangano

## NATAL

### LABOUR

- South African Allied Workers Union
- Tin Workers
- African Workers Association
- National Federation of Workers
- Council of Unions of South Africa

### CIVIC

- Joint Rent Action Committee
- Durban Housing Action Committee
- Phoenix Working Committee
- Newlands East Residents Association
- Chatsworth Housing Action Committee
- Joint Commuters Committee
- Tongaat Civic Association
- Pietermaritzburg Combined Ratepayers Association
- Verulam Housing Action Committee
- Merebank Ratepayers Association
- Greenwoodpark Ratepayers Association
- Asherville Housing Action Committee
- St Wendolins Welfare Committee
- Isulumusi Inanda

### CHURCH

- Diakonia
- Islamic Council of South Africa

### POLITICAL

- Natal Indian Congress
- Release Mandela Committee

- Detainees Support Committee
- Black Sash
- Natal Anti-SAIC Committee

## YOUTH AND STUDENT

- Azaso
- Cosas
- Merebank Ex-Student Society
- MSRC
- UND SRC
- UDW SRC
- Lamontville Youth Organisation

## WOMEN

- Women for Peaceful Change Now
- Durban Women's Group

## UDF

- North Coast Region UDF
- Western Areas Region UDF

## WESTERN CAPE

### CIVIC

- The Cape Areas Housing Action Committee
- The Western Cape Civic Association

### WOMEN

- The United Women's Organisation

### STUDENT AND YOUTH

- The Azanian Students' Organisation
- The Congress of South African Students
- The Cape Youth Congress
- The Inter-Church Youth
- The National Union of South African Students

### LABOUR

- The Media Workers Association

### CHURCH

- The Muslim Judicial Council
- The Ecumenical Action Movement
- The Islamic Council of South Africa
- The Western Province Council of Churches

### TRADERS

- The Western Cape Traders Association

(PROVISIONAL LIST)

We must strengthen our organisations

# NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika  
 Maluphakamu phondo lwayo  
 Yiva lemithandazo yethu  
 Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapholwayo

Yiza moya (sikelela, nkosi sikelela)  
 Yiza moya (sikelela, nkosi sikelela)  
 Yiza moya, oyingcwele  
 Usi sikelele  
 Thina lusapho lwayo

Morena boloka sechaba sahesu  
 Ofedise dintwa lematswenyeho  
 Morena boloka sechaba sahesu  
 Ofedise dintwa lematswenyeho  
 Osiboluke, osiboluke  
 Osiboluke morena, siboluke  
 Sechaba sahesu  
 Sechaba sa Afrika

Makube njalo, makube njalo  
 Kude kube nguna phakade  
 Kude kube nguna phakade  
 Makube njalo, makube njalo  
 Kude kube nguna phakade  
 Kude kube nguna phakade