

My name is Lord Senti Dikgoreng Thobejane. I was born on the 2nd June, 1961 in Alexandra Township, 13 miles from Johannesburg. Born to Mr. Daniel Thobejane and Mrs. Ida Thobejane, with five other children being:- Pinkie Lornah 13 years, Makie Winnie 10 years, Brenda Delisile 8 years, Xolile 5 years and Welile 5 years.

My father is working as a Salesman and Sparesman in a garage while mother a housewife.

Pinkie is in Std.6 (form I), Makie - Std.IV; Brenda Std.II and the twins are in their last year at the Creche (pre-School).

I started schooling in 1969 when I did my SSA in a Local Lower Primary School in Alexandra, finishing my primary education in 1975 when I passed my Std.5, then went to the Local Secondary School (which later was turned to a High School) and did my Std.6 (form I) in 1976. Because of the Boycotts we didn't write our examination 1977 so I had to repeat my Form II in 1978. I left School in 1980 when I was doing my Form IV (First year Matric), when I went to exile.

When the riots started on the 16th June, 1976 our School was in Swaziland on a trip. So we only heard of it in the news and papers. We arrived on the 18th June at about 24h.00 (12.0'clock midnight) finding that everywhere was fire and police which escorted us to the Police Station where everyone was with their guns. We had to spend the whole night under heavy guard. The following morning we were transported to our various homes only to find out that I have lost a mother the previous day through a bullet wound. We heard that she left home to go and fetch my younger sisters at school since it was already bad bad in Alexandra, because of the confusion in the Location. She didn't find them and was forced to look in the demonstrating students who minutes later clashed with the Police and she was among those who were shot.

Since then one's conscience was raised In 1977 during the boycotts, I was a member of the Alexandra Students League which was spear-heading the boycotts in Alexandra. In 1978 I was forced to go underground and ultimately disband because of pressure from the school and the Police. Some of the executive members were detained and later went into exile. In 1979 we regrouped and formed a new Organisation called Alexandra Youth Alive (AYA) of which I was an executive member. Later, in 1980, we joined forces with COSAS (Congress of S.A. Students) and I was alected the branch Chairman.

Because of the pressure that I received from home and the school it became difficult to work. Now that the system was after me and some of the executive members it was difficult to play hide-and-seek with the Police. So I left the country for Lesotho.

I was never detained. Police were looking for me - I became aware of A.N.C. in 1976 by a friend called Sam - Sam was detained just before we were due to leave for Botswana.