

## MAYEKISO

WE  
STAND  
BY OUR  
LEADERS



## Alex 5 Free...

It is not a crime to build democratic street committees and area committees. Nor is it illegal to build mass organisation against apartheid and capitalism.

This is the message after the state failed to prove that Moses Mayekiso and the rest of the Alex 5 committed any crime. After two-and-a-half years, Obed Bapela, Mzwanele Mayekiso, Richard Mdakane, Paul Tshabalala and NUMSA general secretary Moss Mayekiso walked free.

The Alex 5 trial was one of 3 trials that came out of the militant struggles of the 1984 - 1986 period. The Pietermaritzburg UDF trial also failed to prove that fighting apartheid is a crime. The Delmas trial led to long sentences for key UDF leaders Patrick Lekota, Moss Chikane, Popo Molefe and civic leader Tom Manthata. They were accused and convicted of being in a revolutionary plot. The judgement has been criticised by many lawyers and the case is on appeal.

A book has just been published on Cde Moss. In it Moss says, after his release, that : " The judgement legalised the structures that we created in Alex. The state tried to criminalise street committees. They failed to do so...The same applies to

rent and consumer boycotts. The judgement showed that these methods of protest were legitimate. The state also tried to criminalise socialism. But the judgement shows it is not a crime for the working class to aspire towards a socialist society...In court I made my socialist beliefs perfectly clear."

On COSATU, Moss said : " COSATU does not talk enough about socialism. It should be encouraging the working class to interpret socialism and how we can achieve a socialist society. This is important so we are not caught with our pants down when the time comes. In COSATU we refrain from talking class politics because we feel we will be betraying the national democratic struggle by doing so. I believe this is wrong - we will not be betraying it, we will be strengthening it. We can't just jump into a pot of mixed vegetables - we, as the working class, must be clear of what we want. The trade unions are schools for socialism - we mustn't run away from that... There are significant political differences in the affiliates and between the affiliates in COSATU. To overcome this problem we must listen to the masses because many of these differences exist only at leadership level. We must not be arrogant and proud about our positions because we may become

sectarian. There must be political openness. In SA, the history of our struggle has not encouraged open political debate. We must be bold and tackle these differences now, and not when it is too late. Our enemies are the capitalists - we must not divide ourselves by our different approaches."

On his vision of the future, Moss said : " Socialism means working class control, working class power and working class democracy. It also means a society free of exploitation. The working class must control everything for the benefit of all. My vision of a future society is linked to this. The working class must have the power and the will to control in a democratic way. Leadership must always be answerable and accountable to the masses..."

## Hamba Kahle David!

In a brutal May Day attack, a leading comrade in the detainees struggle and the white sector was assassinated. David Webster was shot down outside his house at 10 am.

This was another in a long line of cowardly hit-squad attacks on anti-apartheid activists. Youth activist Sicelo Dihomo and Dr Fabian and Mrs Ribiero were assassinated in 1987; the Cradock 4 were assassinated in 1985. In all cases the killers have never been brought to trial and we believe they never will be.

Comrade Webster, a founder member of DPSC, was investigating these kind of cowardly attacks. His report talks of a pro-apartheid "Z-squad" that does not fear the law in its campaign of terror. Organisations such as COSATU and UDF paid tribute to comrade Webster's life and work at his funeral where over 10,000 people marched through the streets of Johannesburg to bury him.

Hamba Kahle David.

**Unite & organise against repression!**