

# OBITUARY

Comrade Peter Sithole a stalwart of our people's organisation, the African National Congress, a distinguished fighter in the ranks of our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, a son of our fighting people, a comrade, passed away on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

He is one of those young comrades, who having responded to the call of taking up arms to fight against the Pretoria fascist regime, were assigned a mission by the ANC and our people to leave the country and prepare themselves in the art of revolutionary warfare. At the time the conditions of leaving the country, passing through the countries bordering on South Africa and beyond were extremely hazardous. Young as he was, Comrade Peter stood his ground.

Throughout his life he has defended the policies of the African National Congress under all circumstances and carried out whatever mission assigned to him. During the 1967-68 Wankie Campaign, Comrade Peter, together with comrades like Benny Masimba, Charles Sishuba, Robert Baloyi, Basil February who courageously fell in battle and many others who survived and are continuing to fight, distinguished himself as a courageous fighter. These comrades of the Luthuli Detachment have made an invaluable contribution to our people's struggle for national liberation.

When we left the country in hundreds to join Umkhonto we Sizwe after the June 16 Upsurge, Comrade Peter and other members of the Luthuli Detachment eagerly introduced us into army life, preparing us not only militarily but also explaining to us what our revolutionary struggle entails, instilling in us love for our organisation, the ANC, and the determination to fight for our people's cause until final victory.

Comrade Peter possessed the best qualities of an ANC militant - love for labour, honesty, loyalty, courage and determination.

## PICK UP HIS WEAPON!

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The untimely death of Comrade Kate Molale on the 9th May, has robbed us of a dedicated leader of the Women's Section of our movement, the African National Congress. "Mae Kate", as she was affectionately known by all members of our movement and people, is one of those heroic mothers of ours who gallantly responded to the call of the Congress movement during the 50s when high pitched battles like the Defiance Campaign were fought between the masses of our people and the oppressors.

Her determination as a fighter saw her through such heroic and memorable battles as the famous march to the Union Buildings on the 9th August, 1956. Like all South African mothers, Comrade Kate has known harassment and persecution as she knew the pain a mother had to bear witnessing children dying of hunger.

With the beginning of armed struggle and the establishment of the external mission of the ANC, Comrade Kate was amongst those of our gallant fighters, who left their families to come and further strengthen the movement's external mission.

Throughout the difficult years of exile she had remained a fine example of motherly love, dedication and staunchness. The last time she visited us last year, she reminded us of the appalling conditions at home, bringing to our minds the starvation conditions of children, cases of malnutrition and other diseases. She pointed out that in order to defeat the system that compels our people to live under such conditions, it was of primary importance for us to be disciplined. These words were from a mother, freedom-fighter and a leader.

The lessons that we draw from her conviction, devotion, selflessness and love for the people will continue to serve as an inspiration and lodestar in our future battles.

The worthiest homage we can pay to our beloved mother is the liberation of our motherland, an ideal for which she sacrificed all her life.

**ROBALA KA KGOTSO MMA RONA**