

SASPU NATIONAL

South Africa has recently lost three great patriots — Moses Mabhida, Sabata Dalindyebo and Peter Nchabeleng.

Nchabeleng, a UDF leader, died in police custody. Mabhida, head of the SACP and Sabata, a leading member of the ANC, died as leaders in exile.

All were victims of apartheid injustices and repression. The system that forced Mabhida and Sabata from the land of their birth is the same system in which Nchabeleng died in detention.

It is the same system of violence which has killed over 1000 people in the past one and a half years, detained more than 2000, charged more than 30 000 with 'public violence' and which has left thousands of others injured or maimed for life.

The SADF and the SAP are the only forces which are legally allowed to use violence.

In this system violence is institutionalised, not only in the vast network of security laws, but also in thousands of other measures designed to control movement, housing, where people live and work, education, citizenship and many more.

To this must be added the violence which is part and parcel of an economic system governed by the god of profits. This forces workers to work long hours in dangerous conditions for starvation wages. It uses the migrant labour system and bantustan bullies to feed them cheap workers and keep the 'surplus people' under control.

Caught between non-negotiable demands of the progressive movement and the pyramids of power and privilege they won't let go of, the rulers have resorted to force.

The system of violence and force is being challenged on every front — in the factories, schools, townships and villages, resettlement and squatter camps. People are refusing to submit to the exploitation and oppression any longer.

And despite the violence against them, people are still using peaceful methods like stayaways, consumer, rent and other boycotts to pressurise the government to meet their demands.

The people have carried on mass action to such a degree that, in many townships, the rulers have lost control. This year, it seems, local actions will be joined by regional and nationally organised and co-ordinated campaigns.

This was the call from the National Education Crisis Conference, attended by more than 1000 delegates nationally.

Already in the pipeline are:

- A national May Day work stoppage and commemoration. Cosatu's 650 000 members will be joined by hundreds of thousands of students, workers and residents;

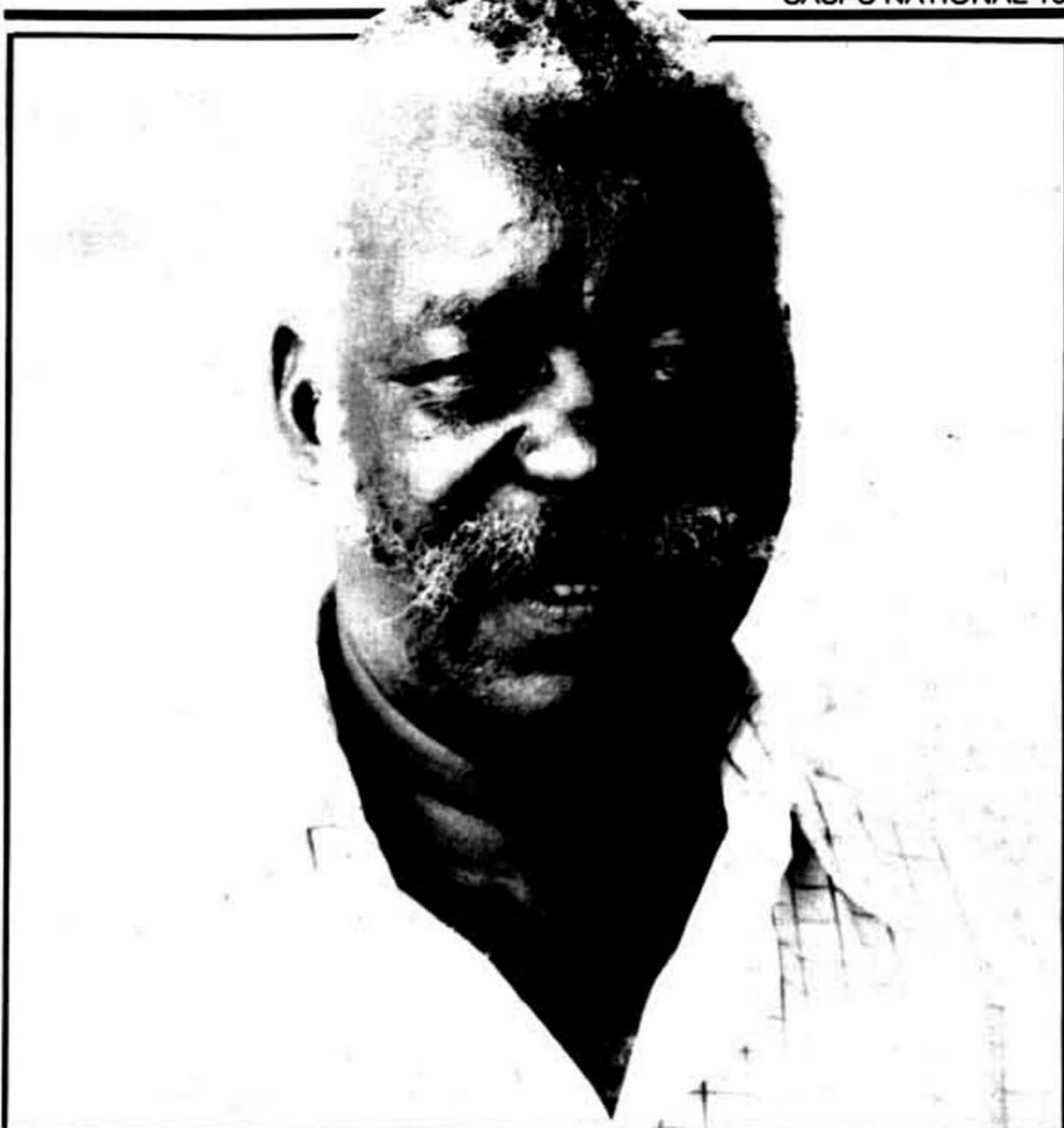
- A three-day stayaway on June 16, 17 and 18 to commemorate Youth Day and the tenth anniversary of the 1976 school uprisings;

- Possible regional and national rent and consumer boycotts.

It is not only the campaigns which are becoming national, but the demands as well. Local demands for lower rents, higher wages, local democratic representation, better houses and living conditions, democratic SRC's and many more have spread throughout the country into one loud, united voice of demands.

Key national demands emerging from the UDF, Cosatu and other progressive organisations are for the return of all exiles, the release of political prisoners, full trade union rights, the unbanning of the ANC and other banned organisations, the dismantling of all apartheid laws and structures, the withdrawal of troops and police from the townships, treason and other charges in political trials to be withdrawn.

These are the bottom line for an end to SA's violence.



"The example of Mabhida's life will nourish the spirit of new generations" - Machel

Full state funeral for exiled Mabhida

"FOR US he was an elder brother. With patience and humility he transmitted to us his long experience of struggle. His advice was always valuable" said Mozambican president Machel at Moses Mabhida's funeral, recently held in Maputo.

Mabhida was to be buried in Pietermaritzburg. Arrangements had to be changed at the last minute after a local magistrate imposed severe restrictions on the funeral.

Only close family and friends could attend; speeches, political songs, flags or pamphlets were prohibited and the procession had to be motorised. Mabhida's family who live just outside Maritzburg, also received threatening calls — allegedly from Inkatha.

Mabhida was elected General Secretary of the South African Communist Party (SACP) in 1980, a post he held till his death. He was also member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC and vice-president of the SA Congress of trade unions (SACTU). At one time he also held the post of political commissar in Umkhonto We Sizwe.

He died of a heart attack in Maputo on March 8 at the age of 63. He had been ill for a year prior to his death and had suffered a stroke in 1985.

Mabhida was given a full state funeral and his body lay in state in the Maputo town hall — the coffin draped in the flags of the ANC and SACP.

Leading the mourners at the funeral on March 29, were Mozambican president Samora Machel, ANC president Oliver Tambo and SACP chairman Joe Slovo. Banners of the ANC, SACP and UDF were carried as well as slogans proclaiming 'long live the friendship between the South African and Mozambican people'.



From left; Curnick Ndlovu, Archie Gumede, Stephen Dlamini, Joe Slovo, Oliver Tambo and Samora Machel bury Mabhida.

The anthem of the Frelimo Party was played and an ANC choir sang 'Nkosi Sikele'.

"His own country was denied to him while he lived, and now it is denied to him after death. But, he will not be buried on foreign soil. For Mozambique too is his country" said Machel.

"He chose to spend his last days with us — on the borders of his own country. In other parts of the world, where he would have been received with equal solidarity and comradeship, he would have found greater comfort and more advanced medical care. But, he preferred to stay here in a free country next to his own".

"The example of his life" said Machel "will always nourish the spirit of new generations, who will live in the victory he helped to create".

For the ANC, Oliver Tambo, spoke of Mabhida's contribution to

building the 'revolutionary alliance' between the ANC, SACP and the trade union movement.

John Nkadimeng, General Secretary of SACTU and member of the ANC national executive, spoke of Mabhida's deep involvement in the South African working class movement of the 1940's and 1950's.

Also present was Archie Gumede of the UDF, who spoke emotionally of Mabhida's life. Both men were born in Natal and fought together in the mass struggles of the 1950's.

As Mabhida's coffin was lowered into the grave, a Mozambican guard of honour fired three volleys of shots in his honour.

President Machel, Tambo and Slovo laid wreaths on the grave simultaneously. The ceremony ended with a Mozambican military band playing the anthem of the world communist movement — the internationale.

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