

Sabata's death shatters Mandela

"COMRADE KING" Sabata Dalindyebo, who died in Lusaka on April 6, was buried in Umtata on the weekend.

He earned the respect of all freedom loving South Africans. The ANC, the UDF and community organisations in the Eastern Cape have paid tribute to his courage and determination calling him a "a martyr for a free South Africa".

Sabata was a fierce opponent of apartheid. He rejected Verwoerd's homeland policy and independence for the Transkei. "The so-called Transkei independence means nothing for the people in terms of social and economic advancement" said Sabata.

After becoming Paramount Chief of the Tembu in 1954 he formed and led the Democratic Party which opposed the Bantustan system. The traditional leader of more than one million South Africans, Sabata used his position to mobilise people for democracy and against the government.

He was involved in long struggles against his half brother Kaizer Matanzima, sub-chief, who was appointed leader of Transkei. After "independence", Matanzima detained Sabata and charged him with treason. He was found guilty of "injuring and violating the dignity of Matanzima" and sentenced to 18 months or R 700.

Shortly after this he left to join the ANC mission in exile.

Sabata's wife blamed the Apartheid system for her husband's death. "I believe my husband



"Comrade King" Sabata would still have been alive and staying with his children had he not been forced to flee in 1980. But I do not regret his flight to freedom. I believe he took the right step", she said.

Eastern Cape UDF publicity secretary, Stone Sizane said of Sabata: "The fact that he was the King of Tembu, the biggest Xhosa tribe in the Transkei, did not make him irrelevant to the struggle for peace and justice. He will always be hailed for his courage, and commitment to the freedom of South Africa."

Winnie Mandela, who accompanied Sabata's wife Beatrice NoMoscow Dalindyebo to Pollsmoor Prison said Nelson Mandela was "shattered" by the news. "There was agony in his face", she said.



Delegates at the National Education Crisis conference

N.Transvaal UDF condemns repression against its people

THE UDF Northern Transvaal region has accused the SA government of 'state terrorism' against people in the region.

They said this at a press conference only a week before the death in police custody of their president Peter Nchabaleng and grenade attacks on two other regional UDF executive members.

The press was urged to improve coverage of events. Failure to do this would help perpetuate the widespread repression in the area.

The Northern Transvaal, like any other UDF region, adheres to the principal of non-violence, they said.

"The struggle for a unitary, non-racial and democratic SA in this part of SA has reached alarming and dangerous proportions.

"The SADF, SAP, LP, Gazankulu, Venda and KwaNdebele police and others are engaged in widespread and intense state terrorism against our people".

They condemned hand grenade and other attacks against people in the region. The use of vigilantes and white farmers showed that the government had lost control of the situation.

There is an "escalating state of civil war in areas such as Sekhukhune, Moutse, Phalaborwa, Makwelereng and many other rural villages and townships", they said.

"Here the security forces are engaging innocent and defenceless people with military hardware such as guns, helicopters and casspirs and were banning people's meetings".

Concern was expressed over closure of schools and boarding schools, victimisation of progressive students and teachers and the inadequate supply of free textbooks.

"UDF Northern Transvaal condemns all these murderous acts against our people and warns that:

- The people's patience is not endless.

- The introduction of military and other forms of violence against the legitimate and non-violent protest undermines the strategy of non-violence.

- Unless all political prisoners are unconditionally released, Apartheid dismantled, the ANC unbanned, all bandits from the frontline states are expelled and handed over to their governments, our country shall continue to fall into deeper crisis".

The statement called on all people serving in 'puppet Bantustan structures' to resign.

"We call on all our people to rededicate themselves to our just struggle for a free, non-racial, democratic and undivided SA by trying to broaden and deepen their democratic structures".

The Northern Transvaal UDF estimates more than 100 organisations presently working under the UDF banner in the region.

UDF activity in the region took off in 1984. As progressive organisations mushroomed the UDF became a strong force in the region and by May 1985 had over 30 affiliates.

Despite continuous and severe police harassment, detention of key activists and killings, the number of affiliates doubled to 63 by February this year — including organisations in areas like Phalaborwa, Venda, Moutse, Mahwelereng, Sekhukhune, Mankweng, Lebokwagomo, Seshego, Steelport and Tzaneen.

Activists said repression had actually mobilised people and they were taking up the call to form village, street and block committees.

STUDENTS, workers, parents and teachers are on the offensive on the education front.

The government has totally failed to meet people's national education demands. After resolutions taken at the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) conference in Durban, thousands of students are continuing the battle for People's Education inside the schools.

But in many areas severe repression and government refusal to meet demands has forced students out on boycott.

The conference reflected the solid alliance of students, workers, parents and teachers and their organisations built around education struggles.

Both UDF and Cosatu have given strong backing to conference resolutions which include support for May Day celebrations, a national stayaway on June 16, 17 and 18 and support for other national and regional mass action like rent and consumer boycotts.

In the Eastern, Western and Northern Cape, Border and parts of the Southern Transvaal students are back at school.

In line with the NECC back-to-school resolutions, they are

strengthening and consolidating organisation in the schools and starting to implement alternative people's education programmes.

Threatened by this, the government has resorted to closing down schools. Pretoria Education Minister Viljoen criticised People's Education as 'socialist and revolutionary'.

"The DET is trying to disorganise us by closing down the schools", said a Natal education activist. "They want to sow division and prevent us from consolidating student, parent and teacher organisation".

Closures of schools in Bloemfontein, Lamontville, Katlehong and earlier in PE, has led to strong reaction from parents demanding they be reopened.

Other key issues of conflict in schools throughout the country have been:

- expulsions of students and teachers.
- inadequate and poor stationary, lack of textbooks.
- detentions, killings and police action.
- lack of water and overcrowding in rural schools.
- the implementation of democratic SRC's.
- corporal punishment in primary and higher primary schools.

- promotions and exam fees. In Cape Town the Parents Crisis Committee went to the DET demanding reinstatement of expelled teachers and that students write exams without paying exam fees.

The DET agreed students wouldn't have to pay exam fees. In the Northern Transvaal, Natal, Free State and East Rand repression has disrupted schooling.

On the East Rand, Vosloorus students boycotted classes after five people were killed at the funeral of MK guerilla Samuel Sekgole. Katlehong schools have been closed down and in Rathanda students only returned to school after a student leader was released from detention. Watville students are out of classes.

The lack of stationary has angered students. In Gugulethu, Nyanga, Beaufort West and Mankweng students burnt paper-thin exercise books, saying they were poor quality and were inadequate.

In PE, students say the DET is stalling on stationary. Students there are implementing the unbanning of Cosas and Cosas t-shirts and banners appear have been appearing in large numbers at funerals, meetings and generally in the townships.

UWO and Women's Front form Cape Town's UWCO

THE NEWLY launched Cape Town United Women's Congress (UWCO) plans to launch a "Campaign against racist laws".

What form this will take is still being discussed by the branches of the organisation.

The United Women's Organisation (UWO) and the Women's Front emerged recently to form the UWCO.

The decision to unite was made at a conference on March 22 attended by over 300 members of both organisations.

"We resolved it was our political responsibility to merge in order to work effectively to organise all the unorganised women. We will not

achieve liberation if half the population is unorganised" said a UWCO spokesperson.

"Women play a crucial role in the struggle if we are confused and divided this spills over and negatively affects other organisations", she said.

Helen Joseph addressed delegates on the importance of unity.

Sister Bernard Ncube from the Federation of Transvaal Women (Fedtraw) spoke about the role of women in the struggle.

A new executive comprising members of both organisations was elected. It was mandated to work sensitively in building and strengthening the new organisa-



Sister Bernard

tion. Noma-India Mafeketo (UWO) and Mrs Hallow (WF) are co-chairs. Lynn Brown and Mamte Ramot-samai are joint secretaries. There are also two education and training officers, two reps to the UDF, two treasurers and two volunteer group conveners who will co-ordinate the work of UWCO organisers.

Delegates to the conference stressed the need to build a national federation of women discussion on this will continue.