

Making music for the kids



By
LEN KALANE

A "Save The Children" music festival to benefit kids detained under the state of emergency is planned for Orlando Stadium at the end of November.

The festival - the first of its kind in the country - comes after a call from the United Democratic Front for a "National United Action" campaign over the festive season "for all progressive, democrats and workers to unite in action against apartheid and the emergency".

The planned festival has been given the go-ahead by major political bodies, including the UDF and Azapo.

It's the brain-child of a newly-formed body for musicians, the SA Musician's Alliance, which will from today liason between musicians and political groupings.

At a Johannesburg meeting on Wednesday, UDF^{ed} representatives Jabu Ngwenya and Krish Naidoo and musicians' representative worked out a blueprint to launch the Musician's Alliance.

After the meeting, the Musicians' Alliance announced plans for the "Save the Children" festival planned for November 30.

Groups expected to perform include Stimela, Supa-

ona

stop work

security police between 1982 and 1984. They also faced and were acquitted of high treason charges with two other Saawu officials - former secretary Sam Kikine and John Ngcobo, both of Durban.

Njikelana said he and Saawu official Bethwell Nquma were returning from addressing the union branches in Bloemfontein and Welkom when their car was involved in an accident.

Born at St Matthews, a mission station near Keiskamahoe in the Ciskei 31 years ago, Njikelana was dismissed from Fort Hare University in 1976 for his role in student politics. He began working for the SA Television manufacturing company in 1979.

He soon became chairman of the Workers' Committee and then East London branch chairman of Saawu. In 1981 he was elected vice president of Saawu.

funeral tomorrow

L MORATHI

Chief Minister Simon Mvelo will preside at a state funeral from 8am to 11am tomorrow.

Dignitaries from South Africa, Venda, Transkei and Swaziland have been invited to attend.

Mr Mvelo has a history of sugar diabetes at the Johannesburg hospital on Monday.

With him died the dream of SA-styled "independence" for the homeland.

Skosana's proposal for independence from the SA government earlier this year, sparked much dissatisfaction among many KwaNdebele residents that manifested itself in boycotts, assassinations, murders, abductions and unrest.

Resistance against independence culminated in a four month war which claimed over 150 lives.

I die for ANC'

ident

1981, the 15-year-old man was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for arson sur- Town Su- his week- ing cross- was pre- the ANC ed of its boere". sentenced Regional g develop- ces alight; arson for house of o and five or burning f Alfred he claimed

were informers.

He was also given a two years sentence for malicious damage to property.

While testifying in mitigation of sentence, Mtlomelo was asked how he felt about the offences.

"I was satisfied and then at another stage I am not yet satisfied before I burn down the house of the magistrate and the persecutor."

Asked during cross-examination about an ANC badge on his jacket, he said he was prepared to die for the ANC and he approved of its work "to kill the boere".

He said that when he set

the development board of- fices alight, he had hoped a worker, "that dog Fourie", would be there.

Justice Baker said this week he was asked to reduce Mtlomelo's sentence on the grounds that it was disturbingly inappropriate and the magistrate had been influenced by Mtlomelo's statements.

Reducing the sentence would be "expressing approval of violent methods of changing the set-up in the country, which can't be allowed", said the judge.

The sentence was "perfectly reasonable", he said, dismissing the appeal.

When the Musicians' Alliance.

After the meeting, the Musicians' Alliance announced plans for the "Save the Children" festival planned for November 30.

Groups expected to perform include Stimela, Supa-frika, Coyote, Ebony, Savuka, CJB, Aleck Khoali, Yvonne Chaka Chaka and the Big Dudes.

Artists connected with the Bureau for Information "Peace Song" won't be invited, alliance spokesman said.

Names mentioned included Steve Kekana, Babsy Mlangeni, Vusi Shange, Abigail Khubeka, Blondie Makhene, Cliff Makhene, Adele First, Riccardo and El Etto.

Musicians were represented at the meeting by Peter Kunene (for Stimela, Coyote and Ebony), Derrick Thema Alec Khoali and Jonathan Clegg for Savuka.

Also represented were CJB, the Big Dudes and Yvonne Chaka Chaka - who was cleared on the "Peace Song" connection following rumours that she took part.

The musicians' ad hoc committee - Kunene, Thema, Khoali and Clegg - will meet on December 16, when musicians will be invited to elect an executive committee for the new body.

The "Save the Children" festival announcement comes barely a week after the Black Sash vow to fight for the release before Christmas of thousands of children held under emergency laws.

An estimated 8 000 children are believed held since the state of emergency began on June 12.

The Musicians' Alliance said it will in future liaise with political groupings on matters of "common interest", including:

- Consultation on black calendar holidays.
 - Boycott of venues.
 - Updating musicians on the "political complexion" of the day before signing contracts.
- The alliance backed the December 16-26 period called by the UDF to observe a Christmas against Emergency. The 10-day period is to remember:
- "Fallen heroes".
 - Those in jail and exile and those who have fallen in the fight against injustice.
 - Children doomed to spend Christmas in jail.
 - Rededication to the struggle.

The UDF said it was important that the period be observed in dignity and that people avoid public drunkenness. A call was made to suspend sports fixtures and music festivals during this period.

An alliance manifesto said it aimed to "provide a program of action where music can contribute substantially to the reconciliation and unification of SA and its people".

Musicians' Alliance members will undertake to:

- Build closer ties with the community and identify with their struggle and make a public stand where possible.
- Perform benefit concerts for genuine causes but not more than once every two months.
- Ensure that at least one track on every album recorded will have lyrics relevant to "our situation and reflect the aspirations of SA's people" and their struggle.

The Musicians' Alliance also endorsed the campaign for National United Action.

More traffic deaths

FEWER accidents, but more fatal ones and more deaths on SA's roads in the first nine months of this year - that's the picture as the Christmas holidays approach.

The number of road traffic accidents in September this year (9 298 070) showed a decrease of 10,3% compared with August, according to figures released in Pretoria this week by the central statistical services.

But the decrease in September compared with the corresponding period last year (31 035) was only 1,1%, while the total for the first nine months of this year (273 394) was 1,6% lower than that for the same period last year (277 929).

The number of fatal accidents for September this year (681) was 8% lower compared with the same month last year (740) - but the figure for the first nine months of this year (5 936) was 3,4% higher than the corresponding period of last year (57473).

The total number of casualties showed a sharp decrease of 11% between August 1986 (9 797) and September (8 716). - Sapa.

THE EMERGENCY

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