

NEC STATEMENT FOR UDF NEWS.

We are proud of the achievements of the UDF in the twelve months since its launching. The major achievements We believe that the past year has taught us much about our strength and our ability to organise. It has also taught us how the government and their puppets panic when the strength of the democratic movement drives them into a corner.

We are going to pass an important milestone in our history, the tricameral parliament elections. We have called on the people to boycott these elections. All the signs indicate that the people will heed this call because this is a call for unity and against sell-outs. The NEC would like to thank the people for this response.

It must be emphasised that the elections are not the end of the struggle against apartheid. It is but the beginning of a new phase of oppression where PW Botha will be assisted by his junior partners, the Hendrikse's & Rylance. The harsh effects of the 'new deal' will only be felt after the opening of the tricameral parliaments after in September. Our resistance must be deepened to stave off this attempt to strengthen the hand of apartheid.

The period ahead calls for the strengthening of our voice by strengthening our democratic organisations. We must build on the lessons of the past year.

In addition, we must now clarify our demands for the future South Africa, and the path to liberation. Our call to the people is to take these discussions into our organisations. By doing this, you will guarantee that the principles we uphold — UNITY & DEMOCRACY. Our future depends on your willingness

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



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N.E.C STATEMENT FOR UDF NEWS

FIRST DRAFT

The South African government has declared war on the people. They've detained the leaders of our organisations. Their police have shot and killed more than one hundred people in the past few weeks. Recently they moved the army in against the people in Soweto. Now, they are threatening to ban the UDF and some of its affiliates.

Our people want a decent life with adequate housing, a living wage and decent education. But this does not matter to the government. They and their puppets continue to inflict even more hardships on our people. Forcibly removing us from our homes to distant wastelands. Forcing bantustans and self-rule down our throats. Increasing the prices of basics like rent, food and transport.

Yet, they expect our people to take this suffering without question. When we refuse to take this pain they panic. They shoot young and old, and then do not even allow us to bury our dead. Even a bishop was arrested for attending a funeral.

The government expects us not to notice these things. They blame our grievances on so-called agitators.

They fail to understand that for us all these issues are a matter of life and death. Our families will die if we cannot feed them. When our rents are increased without consultation, the lives of our families are threatened.

The government uses our taxes on their army, their bantustan leaders and their tricameral parliament. Now, we must say to them and the world, they rule without our support. They rule only by the force of the gun. We must say to them that we are angry.

They know these things, but we must remind them of it. The government thinks that our anger will vanish if we do not have organisations, if our leaders are banned or if they shoot our children.

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But, they are wrong. The UDF had warned them that this new constitution is a recipe for conflict and disaster. They refused to listen. They are now seeing the words of the UDF come true.

Looking for scapegoats like the UDF will not solve the problem. The UDF is a front of organisations. The UDF does not take decisions on behalf of organisations. Leaders do not take decisions for organisations either. Decisions are taken by the members of our organisations, the people of South Africa.

Our organisations are merely the places where our decisions are taken. If they take these places away, others will be found - our homes, churches and streets. So let them ban the UDF, let them ban our organisations. Let them ban us from talking to each other in the streets.

Our anger will not go away. Dissatisfaction will make way for bitterness. Conflict will breed more conflict. They will reap the fruits of their folly.

The UDF does not want this situation. We say there is only one solution to peace in our country. Unban all our organisations. Release our leaders. Guarantee the safe return of our exiles and scrap the racist constitution. Our people will not rest until we have won our place in the bodies that govern this country.