

I will manage

SAYS MRS

Sobukwe

SUNDAY EXPRESS-REPORTER

"I KNEW there would be hardship when I married him—he was a politician and I knew he would have to struggle and suffer," Staff-nurse Veronica Sobukwe, 36, said yesterday when I asked her what she would do now that her husband, Robert Sobukwe, ex-P.A.C. leader, was to be indefinitely ¹-pined on Robben Island.

"I will manage," she said.

We sat on a wooden bench in the hall of the municipal clinic in one of the south-western townships where she works all day.

"My mother looks after the children. I earn the money," she told me.

Mrs. Sobukwe is the sole support of her four children—aged 3, 7 and twins aged 4—as she was until recently while her husband was in prison for three years. They live in a four-roomed house in Mafika.

The children have not seen their father for three years. Mrs. Sobukwe refused to say whether she would apply for permission to take them to see him on the island.

Will study

She also refused to answer any questions on whether she would join her husband, or move to Cape Town so that she could visit him once a week. (He is allowed visitors once a week).

All she said was that he intended to study for a B.Sc. degree from an overseas university.

She met her husband at Alice when she was training as a nurse and he was a student at Fort Hare. They were married in Johannesburg nine years ago, when he was a school teacher. Later he got a post as a lecturer in the Department of Bantu Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand.

In 1960 he was elected president of the P.A.C.

"We had six years together," Mrs. Sobukwe said yesterday. "When, in 1966, he led P.A.C.'s campaign against the pass laws, he was arrested and sentenced to three years for treason."

Rare visits

"I was allowed to visit him every three months for the first two years, and during the last year I was allowed 30 minutes every month."

"The last time I saw him in prison was on April 13. I had a faint hope then that they would release him when his time was up, the first week in May."

"I only heard on the night of May 1 that he was on Robben Island. When I saw him there he told me that he had been sent there a week before."

"I had to hurry home to be back at my nursing post on Monday."

"I do not know when I will see him again."

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