

Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, new Africanist leader and

POLITICAL TOUGH-TALKER

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There is a new name in the political melting pot: Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe. Young, intellectual, uncompromising, he has risen above the heads of the veterans to become leader of the Pan-Africanist Congress, the voice of South Africa's bristling, black nationalism

Written by Matthew Nkoana

A FEW weeks ago the name Robert Mangaliso — it means "Wonderful" — Sobukwe meant little to people outside the inner circle of African politics here. Today the tall, suave, 35-year-old Witwatersrand University lecturer has become a man with a hand on the strings of political destiny.

Until April, Mangaliso was moving quietly behind the political scene, arguing, persuading, organizing on behalf of the forces of Africanism which had split last year from the African National Congress. Then, all of a sudden, he was catapulted into the headlines with his election as the first president of the new Pan-Africanist Congress, whose cry is Africa for the Africans.

Before that, it had always been the lavishly-bearded, syllable-spilling Josias Madzunya who gesticated and thundered into the spotlight when it was directed on the Africanists.

But Madzunya, a comparative new-comer to the Africanist creed, was too much of an individualist to fit in with the rigid discipline which the inner councils of the movement had fashioned for itself.

He had a role to play: to keep the audience interested in Africanism while the stars of tomorrow prepared for the time when they would be able to march boldly from the wings.

That time has now come, and Madzunya has been relegated to the role of an untitled extra.

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A new era has begun in life of Mangaliso Sobukwe, 35, Wits, University lecturer, with his election as president of the Pan-Africanist Congress.

"I HAVE NOT YET GIVEN UP HOPE..."

For Josias Madzunya, right, an era has ended with his failure to gain any Africanist group office.

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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DOCUMENT DETAILS:

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Document ID:- A2618-Cd3

Document Title:- DRUM: Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, new Africanist leader and political tough-talker (bad copy of clipping)

Author:- Azania News

Document Date:- May 1959