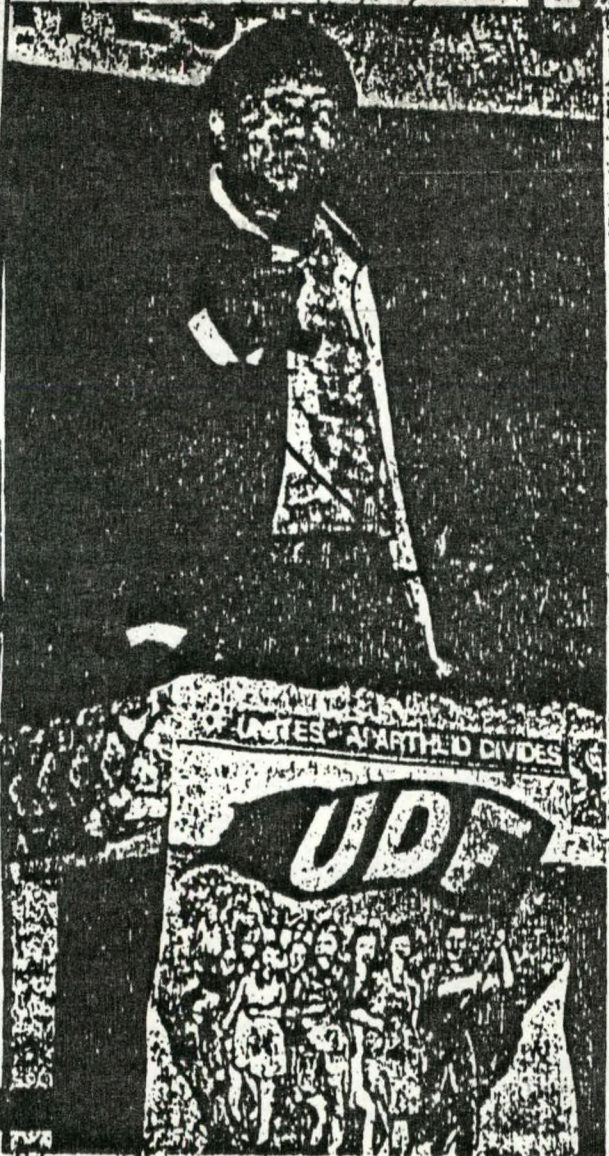


Call for unity under the umbrella of UDF

J.M. in E. Post 24/10/83



Above: Mr POPO MOLEFE, of Johannesburg, secretary-general of the United Democratic Front, addressed about 1200 people in the Rio Cinema, New Brighton, yesterday. Right: A section of the crowd at the first rally of the

by JIMMY MATYU

HERE was need for change in South Africa, but not the "cosmetic" change planned by Mr P W Botha's reforms, which were aimed only at entrenching and preserving apartheid, the secretary-general of the United Democratic Front, Mr Popo Molefe, said in Port Elizabeth yesterday. He said the reforms seek to force coloured and Indian sons not only to join the racist army, but also to die on the borders in defence of apartheid.

He was addressing a multiracial crowd of about 1200 who attended a meeting in the Rio Cinema, New Brighton, to introduce the UDF interim committee for the Eastern Cape region.

Mr Molefe said the forthcoming black town council elections to be established in terms of the Black Local Authority Act, which was a continuation of the commu-

nity council system that had been rejected by most of the black people, should be opposed.

The town councils would inherit the problem of the acute housing shortage, which the Government had not been able to solve.

The only way town councils could raise money was to increase rentals and electricity charges.

He criticised the "illegitimate" Sebe Government of Ciskei for "mowing down innocent people in Mdantsane".

"I want to sound a clarion call for unity. People of South Africa, let us unite under the United Democratic Front against all evils of apartheid in this country," he said.

Mr Molefe said the UDF declaration wanted "all freedom-loving people of South Africa to say with one voice that they cherish the vision of a united democratic South Africa based on the will of the people".

The UDF was a broad alliance of different organisations with different ideologies and political affiliations who had pledged themselves to fight side by side against the Government's constitutional proposals, the Koorhof Bills and other day-to-day problems affecting the people.

"UDF stands for a single non-racial, unfragmented South Africa. A South Africa free of Bantustans and Group Areas Act and all forms of oppression," he said.

Mr Molefe said the UDF did not seek to usurp the autonomy of organisations that come together under its banner, but aimed at strengthening those organisations.

"The commercial Press continues to project UDF as another Charterist movement. I want to point out that UDF has its own declaration. We, however, do not deny that within UDF there are those or-

ganisations that cherish the Freedom Charter, and as autonomous organisations, it is their right to cherish it.

"I also want to point out that UDF is not an extension of the African National Congress. It is simply a broad front opposed to apartheid, the evils of the P W Botha reforms."

Mr Molefe said there was a need for trust and faith in South Africa had to work out a constitution with a potential for maintaining peace for all the people of the country.

But this would also mean, firstly, the release of all political prisoners, the return of exiles and up-lifting of organisations and people, he said.

Among other speakers were Mr Prince Msuthu, Mr S Mkhali, the Rev I Soga and Mrs N Gcina.

(Report by J Matyu, 16 Baakens Street, Port Elizabeth.)

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