

Sobukwe not *ill-treated*

By **GORDON WINTER**

(Pictures by **JAMES SOULLIER**)

THE doors of Pretoria Prison were opened for the Sunday Express last week by the Minister of Justice, Mr. B. J. Vorster, after startling allegations of brutality in the treatment of the former Pan African Congress leader, Robert Sobukwe, had been reported in a British newspaper.

The allegations, which the newspaper described as "horri-fying," were made by the former national secretary of the now-banned Pan African Congress, Kitchener Potlako Leballo.

The newspaper, the weekly Labour "Tribune," quoted Leballo as saying that Sobukwe was "in a critical condition" and was ill-treated by warders in African prisons.

Leballo also made similar allegations at a recent Press conference in Amsterdam.

But Sobukwe himself told

me in an exclusive interview in Pretoria Prison on Friday: "Leballo's report is entirely untrue and without foundation."

And inside the prison I was able to confirm that Sobukwe is in good health and is, in his own words: "Fit and well."

Because of the serious nature of the accusations made by Leballo, I interviewed the Minister of Justice, Mr. Vorster.

He told me: "I will give you every facility you need to investigate these ridiculous accusations. In fact, you can go and

● Continued on Page 10

PUBLISHER:

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

Location:- **Johannesburg**

©2010

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- **A2618-Cp1-8**

Document Title:- **Sunday Express: Sobukwe not ill-treated**

Author:- **Gordon Winter**

Document Date:- **28 October 1962**