

# Fatal to free Sobukwe

## —Pelser

THE SENATE. — Although circumstance might alter, it would be a fatal mistake to release Robert Sobukwe from his detention on Robben Island at this time, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Pelsler, said yesterday.

The Minister was replying in the committee stage of the General Laws Amendment Bill to opposition objections to the clause which empowers the Minister to detain Sobukwe for a further year.

Mr. Pelsler said that if he were released, Sobukwe would disappear overnight. Some Opposition members had contended that other leaders who had fled from South African had

not been heard of again, but that would not be the case with Sobukwe.

If Sobukwe were released, he would get to Dar es Salaam, where P.A.C. leaders were fighting amongst themselves. The P.A.C. were looking for a man to give them the necessary leadership and the P.A.C., as was known, were the lackeys of the communists.

There is no doubt about the tremendous personality and leadership of Sobukwe.

Senator J. L. Horak (U.P.)

said the retention of the clause gave Sobukwe the status of a living martyr. While accepting that he was dangerous, he had great respect for the ability of the Special Branch to deal with Sobukwe if he were released and contravened the law.

Senator G. A. Rall (U.P.) said Sobukwe was an intelligent man and by electing to remain on Robben Island and not showing repentance, he was gaining outside support. As the black people had shown in Rhodesia, they were not interested in communism and, if released, Sobukwe would not have support in South Africa.

The clause was approved by 29 votes to 12. — Sapa.

Rall, 18/6/87  
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***PUBLISHER:***

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

*Location:-* **Johannesburg**

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***DOCUMENT DETAILS:***

*Document ID:-* **A2618-Cp2-11-9**

*Document Title:-* **Rand Daily Mail: Fatal to free Sobukwe - Pelser (original)**

*Author:-* **Rand Daily Mail**

*Document Date:-* **18 June 1968**