

Sobukwe Sunday wakens town

By MANDLA TYALA

GRAAFF-REINET came alive yesterday afternoon when a crowd of about 1 000 placard-bearing and slogan-chanting Africans took to the centre of the small Karoo town en route to a cemetery.

The occasion was the unveiling of the tombstones of the former leader of the banned Pan Africanist Congress, Mr Mangaliso Robert Sobukwe, and his brother, Charles.

The Sunday tranquillity broken, curious onlookers emerged from houses and businesses as the procession, singing freedom songs and waving massive banners, snaked through the town.

By the time it reached the cemetery, the crowd had snowballed to about three times its original size, with some onlookers, mainly people from a nearby Coloured residential area, having joined.

Police maintained a discreet presence. Officers dressed in camouflage uniforms were seen sitting on the national road about a kilometre from the graveyard in a radio car, keeping a watch on the ceremony. Others were stationed nearby.

At the tombside, moving speeches were given by a number of speakers, including Mr Benjamin Pogrund, Deputy Editor of the Rand Daily Mail, and Mr Sifano Nyaka, a representative of the black consciousness movement, the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo).

While Mr Pogrund gave an account of Mr Sobukwe as an indomitable and unrelenting man, Mr Nyaka criticised student liberals.

Said Mr Nyaka: "Let it be a shameful act for us to open our ranks to so-called militant white university students.

"The black people in this country are not convinced about the commitment, dedication and sacrifice of the white liberals to our struggle.

"Some of us are still asking ourselves what happened to the militant Nusas leaders of the early Sixties."

He believed they had been absorbed in "privileged managerial positions".



Reverend Stanley Magoba, right, unveils the two-metre tombstone for Robert Sobukwe outside Graaff-Reinet. A crowd of 5 000 were at the graveside to hear speeches in honour of the former leader of the Pan Africanist Council.

E.P. Herald, 16/8/82

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-Cn5-11**

Document Title:- **Eastern Province Herald Sobukwe Sunday wakens town (clipping)**

Author:- **Mandla Tyala**

Document Date:- **16 August 1982**