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UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

WESTERN CAPE REGION

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PRESS RELEASE 15.8.84

The United Democratic Front (Western Cape) is confident that the people will show their rejection of the governments's "New Deal" by an overwhelming stay-away on August 22 and 28. As part of our campaign against the fraudulent elections, the UDF will be organising a massive rally at 2pm this Saturday, August 18, at Fun City, Athlone. The rally will also mark the first anniversary of the UDF, launched last year at Rocklands Civic on August 20.

The UDF is expecting between 10 000 and 15 000 people to attend. Already, some 80 buses have been filled by UDF area committees. A large number of these will be coming from the rural areas, from UDF regions such as the West Coast, Northern Cape (Springbok, O'Kiep, etc.), Southern Cape (Outshoorn, Knysna, Mossel Bay, etc.) Worcester, Paarl, Stellenbosch, Hawston and Ladismith. Halls have been booked to provide food and rest for the thousands expected from up country.

Preparation for the rally ^{been} has marked by intense activity. Some 150 000 flyers will be distributed at homes, stations and factories. Thousands of stickers and posters have been printed. In addition, 150 000 copies of UDF News, also advertising the rally, albeit on the wrong date, went out last weekend. On Tuesday there were one person picket stands at over 100 places on City and Divisional Council areas, and this will be repeated on Friday and Saturday. Loud hailers in many areas will announce the meeting.

A Freedom Run has been organised through all areas of Cape Town to co-incide with the rally. Athletes will leave from Bo-Kaap, Mitchell's Plain, Retreat and Bellville, bearing the torch of unity and freedom in relay from area to area, including the African townships. There will also be runners from the West Coast and from Outshoorn, representing the UDF rural areas

Speakers at the meeting will be Ms Albertina Sisulu (UDF President), Oscar Mpetha (UDF President) Imam Hassan Solomons (Muslim Judicial Council) and Rev. Allan Boesak (President, WARC, Patron UDF). In addition, there will be a speaker from SWAPO, representing the common struggles of the Namibian and South African people against the apartheid regime.

The rally this weekend culminates a period in which thousands have peacefully attended UDF meetings, including 4 000 in Graaf Reinet, 2 500 in Oudtshoorn, 350 in Ocean View, 600 in Kensington, 600 in Atlantis and many others. Regional rallies to mark the first anniversary of UDF have been planned throughout the country this weekend.

You are cordially invited to attend the rally as a member of the press. Facilities for the press will be available at the venue. For further details contact J de Vries, UDF Publicity Secretary at 65 6019 or 51 9489.

Recent UDF meetings

Over the last two weeks there has been a spate of UDF meetings throughout the Western Cape region, rejecting the August elections and calling for a halt to all forced removals. The meetings, with their attendance, include :

Rural areas

Oudtshoorn 2500
Graaff Reinet 4000
Worcester 450
Robertson 300
Swellendam 300
Upington 300
Vredendal 400
Atlantis 600
Beaufort West 300
Willowmore 300

Town areas

Ocean View 350
Grassy Park 1000
Kensington 600
Athlone 800
Ravensmead 1000
Manenberg 100
University of Western Cape 2500

The Profile of the United Democratic Front

At the time of the launch of the United Democratic Front one year ago, the Transvaal, Natal, Orange Free State, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Border area formed the six formally constituted regions of the UDF.

Since then three more regions have been added; a) The Southern Cape region was launched at a meeting in Oudtshoorn attended by 2500 supporters, on 29 July.

b) The West Coast region was formed in May 1984 at a mass meeting in Saldanha attended by 800 people.

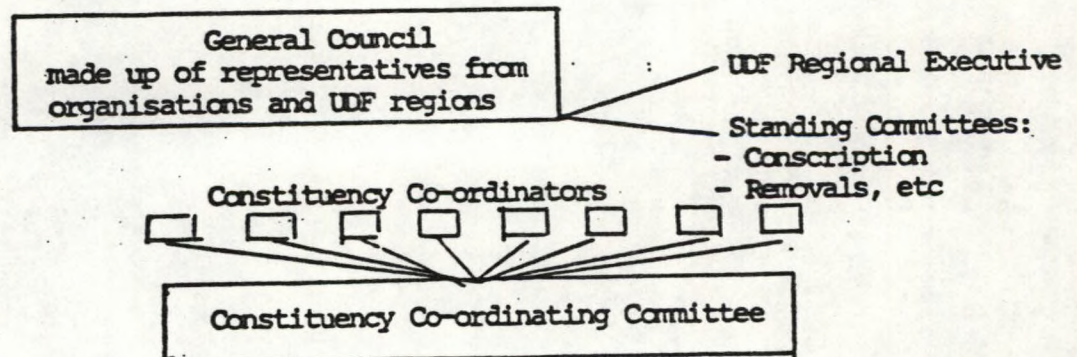
c) The Northern Cape region was formed during the course of this year.

When the UDF was launched a year ago it represented 480 affiliated organisations. Today more than 600 organisations have joined the UDF.

In the Western Cape a temporary committee has been formed to co-ordinate the final weeks of the anti-election campaign. It is composed of the 20 representatives of the electoral constituencies.

A General Council, made up of representatives from affiliated organisations and the formally constituted UDF regions, meets regularly in the Western Cape.

The Structure of the UDF Western Cape Region



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