THE STAR JOHANNESBURG FRIDAY JUNE 14 1968

# Starts sixth year soon on Robben Island **DBODY LIKES THE SOBUKWE** CLAUSE, BUT...

# Views unchanged, says Pelser

From Our Parliamentary Correspondent

Cape Town, Friday. THE DETENTION-WITHOUT-TRIAL CLAUSE of the General Law Amendment Bill went a stage further yesterday when the Assembly passed the committee stage of the Bill. The aim of the clause is to extend the detention of Robert Sobukwe on Robben Island until June 30, 1969.

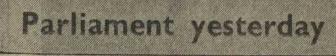
In a short but heated debate, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Pel-ser, firmly resisted Opposition attempts to have the clause scrapped.

Mr. M. L. Mitchell (U.P., had objec Durban North) said the Minister the clause.

Duroan North) said the Minister had powers under other laws to deal with Sobukwe. The Native Administration Act gave him the power of banishment. The Suppression of Communism Act empowered him to restrict people. He could also grant one-way exit permits. In addition, he had a very efficient security service at his disposal.

ASTONISHING With all these powers, it was astonishing that the Government was willing to allow one man to hold the law to ransom. The Government was in danger of making a martyr of Sobukwe among the Africans and his to the leader of the DAC among the Africans and his former followers, and a myth among the general public. Mr. Mitchell said he did not believe that all the powers of the Government could not hold one African in some other way. He pointed out that

now the Prime Minister, had in 1963, when the clause was intro-duced for the first time accepted the principle of coming to Parlia-ment every year to have it re-newed because he did not want to hold Sobukwe for ever. He also said that he did not want the clause to become a perma-nent feature of the law. Now Parliament has been Now Parliament has been Now Parliament has been Not until the day of resur-rection," Sobukwe had said WRONG WRONG



the clause. Mr. Mitchell said it had pre-viously been indicated that this clause was only meant for the case of Sobukwe. He wanted to know if the Minister had any-one else in mind.

Mr. G. F. van L. Froneman (N.P., Heilbron) acknowledged that no one on his side of the House liked the clause.

### WRONG

Mr. Froneman said it would be wrong to release Sobukwe at a time when terrorists were the be done to the organization

year. The present Minister himself had asked Sobukwe about the books of Marx and Engels on his book case, he told him that possible.

munist, but he himself could not make this deduction after having

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Bobukwe was still known as the was still known as the leader of the P.A.C. and there were reports of P.A.C. and there were reports of P.A.C. and there were reports of P.A.C. and there were reports trying to enter South Africa.
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years in jail.

## NO RESEMBLANCE

poised on South Africa's border. which he had headed when it was It would also be wrong to release still anti-Communist and non-

lowers were fighting among each other, they still acknowledged him as their leader.

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Mr. Pelser told the House that He repeated that he believed that it would not, at present, be in the country's interests to withdraw the clause. The present Minister himself books of Mary and Engels on the user which Sobukwe were

The clause was passed by 96 votes to 34.

### LIQUOR

the acknowledged leader of the P.A.C. at a time when the pre-sent leader, Potlako Leballo, had been kicked out, and the P.A.C. was quarelling about a new leader.

He repeated the argument of Mr. Pelser that the test was the interests of one individual or the safety of a country. To grant Sobukwe an exit permit would mean that he would be allowed to cross the country's borders accept the leadership of the P.A.C.

One day the legislation may be changed, but it would not be wise to do so at present.

### SHOCKED

Mr. Froneman's revelations about the visit to Robben Island brought a shocked reaction from Mr. Mitchell, who is chairman of the Opposition justice group which went along on the same occasion.

He said that he had until now refrained from saying anything about the visit in public as this was not the purpose of the visit. Mr. Froneman should rememcountry in uproar within a few ber that he was not Sobukwe's | months, Even now, while his fol-

still anti-communist and non-violent. At present Sobukwe was the only one affected by the clause, but she was disturbed about the trend in South Africa. Already there was no remission for political prisoners. She hoped this was not a train of thought developing further in

of thought developing further in South Africa, as the threshold of tolerance in the country was ris-ing all the time. Gradually the people were becoming used to stricter and stricter measures.

The Minister said at the end of the debate that he did not say that Sobukwe was a Communist, but he did believe that he would commit deeds which would fan Communism.

He had visited Sobukwe him-self on one occasion and had received more information before he had made up his mind this year. After the facts had been considered carefully he had come to the conclusion that Sobukwe had not changed his views at all.

Under present conditions he would be used as a tool of Communism if he was released. He was a leader who had the Robert Sobukwe Papers

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