



UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

P. O. Box 25063
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DA25

30 April 1984

Chief MG Buthelezi
Ministry of the Chief Minister
Private Bag X01
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Sir

With reference to your letter of the 10th November 1983 wherein the National Executive Committee of the United Democratic Front and I were invited to address the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly, be informed that all the regions of the UDF have now considered its contents and have instructed me to reply as follows:

Firstly, the call for unity is not only significant but it has been recognized as such by our people for a considerable while already. History records that it was in deference to the call for unity that our forebears converged on Bloemfontein on 8th January 1912 to establish the South African Native National Congress (later African National Congress) as the premier liberation organisation of Africans in this country. By the forties the drive for unity across racial lines was placed on an irreversible path with the signing of the Dadoo-Xuma/Naicker Pact. This led directly to the Congress of the People which brought together South Africans of all races and from every social strata.

Indeed, the very formation of the United Democratic Front, a non-racial alliance of hundreds of the people's organisations against the present constitutional amendments, was inspired and is based on our recognition of the need for ever greater unity of those opposed to Apartheid, oppression and exploitation. It is in this light that we view your call for unity and credit it with our support.

Secondly, your condemnation of the Nationalist Party's present constitutional machinations and the results of the White referendum as ploys designed to denationalise millions of other South African citizens is in consonance with the spirit of the UDF. We make bold to add, however, that the whole exercise is intended to draw our so-called Indian and Coloured compatriots into the white laager as junior accomplices in the crime of Apartheid. Be assured that we have already exposed and are now actively opposing these discriminatory measures.

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BB

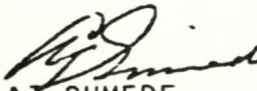
Such incidents as the Mpumalanga affair in which variously members of Inkatha, including some who are highly placed, took the law into their own hands, terrorised our members and damaged property cannot but arouse anger and invite condemnation by all those who strive for unity of the people of South Africa in their struggle against the systematic and institutionalised violence of the Apartheid state. Finally, we must add that the continuing exclusion of the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) and the Azanian Students Organisation (AZASO) - both active affiliates of the UDF from the University of Zululand, schools and colleges under the control of the KwaZulu Government Services daily continues to frustrate your own pursuits for unity.

In conclusion we reiterate the commitment of the UDF to all the people of South Africa including those presently under the control of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly. We are prepared at all times to avail ourselves of an opportunity to address ourselves to them and to problems peculiar to their specific area but not through those institutions which perpetuate their unfree status. For the present, the struggle must be aimed at the establishment of democratic institutions which will be under the control and guidance of the people they will be serving.

This letter has been written with frankness, honesty and sincerity and we hope that it will be received in the same spirit and attitude.

Thank you

Yours sincerely


 A.J. GUMEDE
 UDF President

P.S.

Enclosed please find a copy of the Declaration of the United Democratic Front.



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