

C95

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Joe Phaahla
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Additional Executive Members

Andrew Boraine
Jerry Coovadia
Mildred Leseia
Aubrey Mokoena
Dr R A M Saloojee
Rev Mcibisi Xundu

Western Cape UDF Executive - Profiles

President - Mr. Oscar Mpetha

73 year old Mr. Oscar Mpetha, respected community leader, was a founder member of the AFCWU. Through his involvement in the AFCWU Mr. Mpetha served as an organizer for SACTU. Mr Mpetha was also president of the regional branch of the ANC in the Cape. Along with Chief Albert Luthuli, president of the ANC, Mr. Mpetha was detained and then banned. The numerous banning orders did not deter him and he continued to devote his life to the people of South Africa. With the re-emergence of the T.U. movement in the early seventies, Mpetha once again became active in the AFCWU. Mr. Mpetha was also instrumental in the setting up of the Nyanga Residents Association. In 1980 he was detained, along with 50 others. After 5 months in detention, Mr. Mpetha and 18 others were charged with "murder" and "terrorism". After a marathon 3-year trial, Mr. Mpetha was found guilty of terrorism, allowed to appeal and released on R1 bail.

Vice Presidents

Mr. Christmas Tinto has along history of political involvement. He was active in the Defiance Campaign against pass laws in 1953. As an organizer of hospital workers, and later railway workers, he was active in the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU). Twice jailed for fighting apartheid, Mr. Tinto was the first political prisoner to win both appeals and be released from Robben Island, the first time in 1965 and again in 1978. Mr. Tinto, a prominent Guguletu community leader, is active in the Western Cape Civic Association.

Mr. Joseph Marks is vice chairperson of the Steenberg Rent Action Committee. This involvement in community affairs led to his involvement in the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC). He was recently elected to the CAHAC steering committee. He is a hawker by trade.

Secretaries

Mr. Trevor Manuel is secretary for the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC), a post he has held for the past three years. He is a former member of the Kensington-Factreton Ratepayers and Tenants Association. He is also co-ordinator of the Education Resource and Information Centre (ERIC).

Ms. Cheryl Carolus was detained for five months in 1976. She was an SRC member at UWC in 1981/1982. She is presently an executive member of the United Women's Organization (UWO) and works for the Churches Urban Planning Commission as a staff consultant.

Treasurers

Mr. Andrew Boraine, a former Nusas president, was recently unbanned. In 1980 he was detained for two and a half months during the school's boycott. In 1981 he was detained and banned during the Anti-Republic Day campaign. He is presently a member of the Observatory UDF area committee.

Rashid Seria, a sub-editor on a daily newspaper, has a long involvement in the community press. He was secretary of Grassroots community newsletter for three years and was recently elected as the chairperson. He was a vice-president of banned Union of Black Journalists (UBJ) and a former vice-president of the Media Workers Association of South Africa (MWASA).

Publicity Secretary

Mr J de Vries, a student at the University of the Western Cape, was a former chairperson of the Kensington Youth Association. He is presently vice-president of the UWC SRC, and regional chairperson of Azaso.

Additional members b

Mrs Mildred Lesiea was involved in the Federation of South African Women (FSAW) and in SACTU as an organiser. She is presently working in the UWO. A former chairperson and organiser of UWO, she is presently on the executive. She is also active in Guglethu civic affairs.

Rev Chris Nissen is a minister in the Reform Presbyterian church. He ministered in Venda, being ordered out in 1981 when he came to Cape Town. He is studying BA(Hons) degree at UCT and is involved in The Ecumenical Action Movement (TEAM).

Imam Solomons is chief imam at the Claremont Main Road Mosque. He is an exec member of the Muslim Judicial Council (MSJ), and is active in the Muslim Youth Movement of South Africa. He represented South African muslims at the Conference for Imams in Iran in December 1982.

Trevor Osterwyk is president of the recently formed Cape Youth Congress (CAYCO), and is a member of the Portland branch. He is a former Mitchells Plain teacher and studied at UWC. He works for the Churches Urban Planning Commission (Cupc) as a field worker.

David Peterson is a former member of the Coloured People's Convention (CPC) and Labour Party, and is an active member of the Worcester action committee.

Ebrahim Rasool, a student at the University of Cape Town, is an executive member of Azaso's UCT branch and is also a member of the Muslim Students Association (MSA) at UCT.

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