

Sobukwe The Symbol of "Africanists"

Heroism in South African Politics

Who was this man?

Profile:

Prof as known to his colleagues - who served at South Africa's most turbulent era in the history of the Nation - was born in 1925 in a small town of Graaffreinet in the Cape Province, where he did his primary education. He proceeded to Heidelberg to do his Secondary and High School studies from where he proceeded to the then South African Native College of (Port Harb). There, he obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Arts around 1948.

Once at Port Harb, he became President of the Students Representative Council (SRC) and was active in the African National Congress Youth League. He participated in the historic 1949 Conference, where the Anton Mziwaka Lembede ANC-Programme of Action approved by African Nationalists Youth was adopted under the Chairmanship of A.P. Mda who piloted it in that year. With Advocate Lembede dying in the process and others wavering - Sobukwe and 'Africanists' in the country became concerned.

He later proceeded to Standerton (Transvaal) and began teaching for a few years, before going to Johannesburg - where he took up Lectureship in African Studies at the

Witwatersrand University in the mid-1950s. Prof. them became a leading theoretician among the "Africanists" within the ANC.

However when the ANC adopted the "multi-racial Freedom Charter" at Kliptown in 1955, the contradictions between the ANC and Africanists' Nationalists sharpened—but the Youth wanted the Programme Action of 1949 implemented by the ANC or drop the Charterists ANC — movement. Thus, the period between 1956 and 1958 drew the two groups further apart and led to a final break in November 1958.

Hence, on the 6th of April 1959 Sobukwe, after extensive tours, speeches, press interviews and releases throughout the country, he and his colleagues "Africanists" supported dissatisfied masses of the African people by organising the formation of the Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) in which he was unanimously elected the National President and new Leader.

The PAC created a new organisational structure a proposed for the first time a "non-racial democratic majority rule society" with everybody who is prepared to accept the democratic rule of the African Majority — being regarded (himself or herself) an "African". Hence the Africanists assure blacks and whites that the PAC Party and Africanists were not "anti-white" nor "racialists" and "tribalists".

In June of that year Sobukwe launched

launched the Status Campaign which aimed at projecting the respect for 'African Personality' and rejection of "baaskapism" promoted by Apartheid system, as well as to end white public use of derogatory appendages as calling every blackman "boy", "charlie" and "jim" or "Native", or "John" and blackwomen "nanny" and the rest nomenclature.

However, the Status Campaign was in fact a deliberate camouflage for his 'Nyoselo Bloomfontein Sharpeville Pass Laws Campaign' (an enduring unfolding worldwide Anti-Apartheid-rule resistance movement which Prof and his colleagues had adopted to launch in a surprise attack on the Apartheid System earn international recognition for African and White peoples United Society's Selfdetermination that could only be negotiated in a National Constitutional Talks Dialogue which Africans missed to participate in it, at the creation of Imperial British-Colonial rule in 1902 Vereeniging Treaty and in the Constitution of 1909 - the South Africa Act.

Under the slogan of SERVICE SACRIFICE AND SUFFERING, "Prof" on 21 March 1960, — had earlier that year resigned his Lecturers Post at the Witwatersrand on mounting protests from authorities that the PAC was "Africanizing" white youth at the Wits - Sobukwe and his political disciples on the theme of 'Liberators of Liberation' — prepared the African people for the first phase of the positive and decisive

Anti-Apartheid Passes Campaign in which the white police massacred some Africanist supporters at Sharpeville and Langa and left hundreds maimed for the rest of their lives by gun-bullets. Resulting from Africa Government's shock - the white authorities responded to the PAC-revolt by banning not only the Africanists' responsible - but regime simultaneously banned the ANC/SACTU-Congress Alliance - putting out of political activity the: a) South African Congress of Democrats (former CPSA or Communist Party of South Africa) b) South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) c) South African Indian Congress & Coloured Peoples organisation; and d) African National Congress - the name of the first multi-racial Society advocates adopted in Milleden in 1955 - when abandoning the 1912 ANC structures.

For his part as National President Sobukwe was convicted to a maximum sentence of three years. It was at the time quite severe a punishment for a political revolt. His Group of leaders got two years each. They were the first political prisoners in South Africa - since King Dinizulu and Bhambatha Zondi were convicted to die in jail by Imperial British Colonial Government for the 1906-8 revolt against British Colonial-rule in South Africa.

On the completion of his three year prison term, a Bill was hurriedly passed through

Parliament under the General Amendment Act, to enable the white regime to continue to incarcerate him on Robben Island, even after he has served his prison term without any good conduct remission favours. His special 'Sobukwe Act Clause' to extend his prison custody was (to demonstrate how much South African Parliament feared this man) unanimously passed. Hence, for the first time he was (as a political prisoner prisoner allowed to continue his studies in jail) one of the privileges of prisoners the PAC - Sobukwe 200 considered hard-core group had been unfairly deprived for having organised the PAC/FOFATUSA countrywide launching of that first Anti-Apartheid Sharpeville Pass Laws Campaign which engendered the present proliferating black and white governed African people's resistance to the scourge of Apartheid White Domination as institutionalized in 1948 by the Nationalist Party Pretoria regime.

'Africanists' sincerely believe that there was no legal justification for the Minister of Justice B. J. Vorster, for intervening to order that Sobukwe should not be released in 1963. Except the phobia which prompted him to say of Sobukwe "... he has magnetic personality/And a divine sense of mission."/

Unfortunately for him and the Nation while his stature grew nationally and internationally - his health gradually deteriorated. In the end,

when his body could no longer hold, the fascist rulers became apprehensive not about his death but international and domestic repercussions - They felt compelled to release him - at least from notorious Robben Island.

He was then released to live under next restrictions in Kimberly District Under 6 a.m to 6 p.m. curfew. Not allowed to meet more than one visitor at a time - under the constant surveillance of the Special branch police - who occupied a house next to him. His health began deteriorating rapidly but his spirit and political convictions regarding revolution which PAC/FOFATUSA twin independent organisations launched in Azania/South Africa by liberation movement in 1960 had been an outright victory - towards right direction by PAC/FOFATUSA - united joint action at Azania/South Africa's Hall of Fame in History of his motherland. Spiritually, he remained indomitable to the extent that had it not been for his failing health - he might have stood trial at the Bethal Case Trial, held in camera case against PAC Group led by Zephania Mothopeng and 17 others. The Special High Court hearing was removed from South Africa African masses' reach in Pretoria City. During court proceedings it was proved that Prof. Zephania Mothopeng and Steve Biko had masterminded the June 16 - 1976 Black Consciousness

movement Students' Uprising in pursuit of the PAC-Unfolding resilient resistance Campaign against the Apartheid system in all its forms. Zephania Mthopeng the surviving member of the trio (who would have got severe sentences had they been in good health) is currently serving 30 years of imprisonment. He defended Sobukwe, when his name and involvement was raised at the Bethal Secret Trial. With Steve Biko, murdered, and Zeph Mthopeng awaiting to be sentenced Sobukwe died on 26th February 1978, before the PAC-Group in this marathon case for their having confessed organising the PAC-all planned Soweto June 16 - Students resistance against Apartheid Compulsory Afrikaans Teaching of Bantu Education - a Campaign that cost more than one thousand African lives in South Africa/Azania. The passing of Sobukwe from the political scene had not been the demise of his message to the African people of South Africa/Azania and mankind.

Here below, we show this Hero's shrine:
 "Authors invite human-race-build him Statue"

Enclosed Shrine Diagram for Page
 I supply for the work.

Tombstone Unceiled on 15-8-1982

IZWE LETHU! I - AFRIKA!

PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA

PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE LATE FOUNDING
PRESIDENT ROBERT MANGALISO SOBUKWE



P.A.C.
Salute Prof



We bid you
adieu to
Martyrdom

Here lies the great heroic Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe;
He the founder of the Pan Africanist Congress, led his people
into confrontation with the oppressor. He set off the struggle
that will not halt until FREEDOM is won. He personified the
heroic qualities of his people down the ages. His name will live
forever, and his leadership will inspire us for all time.

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"SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE SOIL! WE ARE STANDING ON A
THRESHOLD OF A HISTORIC ERA, WE ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS
MOMENTOUS EVENTS. WE ARE BLAZING A NEW TRAIL AND WE
INVITE YOU, TO BE, WITH US, CREATORS OF HISTORY. JOIN US
IN THE MARCH TO FREEDOM, MARCH WITH US TO INDEPENDENCE,
TO INDEPENDENCE NOW, TOMORROW THE UNITED STATES OF
AFRICA."

R.M. Sobukwe.

"IZWE LETHU! I - AFRIKA!"

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