

UDF denies plans to disrupt elections

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JOHANNESBURG — Government allegations that the United Democratic Front was planning to disrupt the coloured and Indian elections were yesterday denied by the body's general secretary, Mr Popo Molefe, who added that the UDF would continue to call for a boycott of the elections.

Speaking to Sapa in Johannesburg, he was reacting to an earlier statement by the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, who said the UDF and affiliated organisations were planning to disrupt the elections "by means of school boycotts, labour unrest, intimidation and other acts of violence".

Mr Molefe said it was not UDF policy to organise disruptive action and the

organisation would not be intimidated by the Government's allegations.

He said school pupils had been staging boycotts against the education system since the beginning of the year, and "labour strikes have been a permanent feature of the labour front in the 80s.

"The fact that the students are linking their boycotts with the elections for the tricameral Parliament does not in any way suggest involvement by the UDF."

The UDF was a legal and non-violent body, Mr Molefe said, and yet the Government was "trying to project the UDF as a violent organisation. This is an act of frustration and panic-strickenness.

"The Government is hoping that through these alle-

gations they will whittle away the support that the UDF is enjoying."

Referring to a statement by Mr Le Grange which linked the election boycotters with the South African Communist Party and the African National Congress, Mr Molefe said: "This is part of a long-standing and well-orchestrated campaign to isolate the UDF and prepare the electorate for the harshest of actions that the State is preparing to take against the UDF."

In his statement released in Pretoria last night, Mr Le Grange warned that any person or organisation planning to disrupt the elections "will not be tolerated by the Government." He mentioned the UDF by name.

He said the Government

was aware that the UDF, some of its affiliates and certain individuals "are planning to disrupt the coloured and Indian elections... by means of school boycotts, labour unrest, intimidation and other acts of violence."

He said it was "a known fact that these people and their organisations who plan to thwart free democratic elections are enthusiastically backed by the South African Communist Party and the African National Congress alliance which openly seek a revolutionary overthrow of the democratic system in South Africa."

He said the police were prepared for "any eventuality" — Sapa

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