

Sobukwe goes to court

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KIMBERLEY. — The banned former Pan Africanist Congress leader, Mr Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, was admitted as an attorney in the Northern Cape division of the Supreme Court here yesterday.

Mr Achmed Laher, a Kimberley businessman and friend of Mr Sobukwe, said that being an attorney "would be a mode of living for the modest man, and I am sure it would give him great satisfaction being able to serve his people".

Although his banning order restricts Mr Sobukwe to the magisterial district of Kimberley between 7 pm and 6 am, he will be allowed to represent his clients in court.

The order has been relaxed, but until special permission is granted, no newspaper will be allowed to quote or report what he says in court.

Impossible

Mr Sobukwe was imprisoned on Robben Island for nine years.

While on the island he was the annual subject of parliamentary debates and the Government had to put the now-famous "Sobukwe Clause" in the General Laws Amendment Act which made it impossible for him to leave prison although he had served his sentence.

Repeated pleas by the Prog MP for Lower Houghton, Mrs Helen Suzman, did not impress Mr B. J. Vorster, then Minister of Justice. He told Parliament that Sobukwe was a "dangerous" person "inside and outside the country".

Meanwhile his wife, Veronica, worked as a nursing sister for the Johannesburg City Depart-

ment of Health until her husband was suddenly released from Robben Island in 1969 and he was restricted to Kimberley.

In jail he had already studied for his law degree — over and above his BA in languages — and was then

articled to Mr Howard Nzimande, a Kimberley attorney.

His wife joined him in Kimberley with her children and the quiet-spoken former PAC leader finished his term of articles with Mr Nzimande.

His attempts to get a job overseas on an exit permit failed because while the Minister of the Interior granted his request for a one-way permit the Minister of Justice would not allow him to leave Kimberley.

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