

684, Mofolo Village,

P.O. Dubé,

Johannesburg.

4th March, 1966

Mr. G.I. Vorster,

The Hon. the Minister of Justice

Union Buildings,

Pretoria

Dear Sir,

I wish to write to you as I am worried about the health of my husband, Robert Mangahiso Sobukwe.

When I visited him on Robben Island in January, I saw that his health had deteriorated. I know his health better than anybody else.

I have ~~read~~ reports that he has now had an operation for his prostate gland. Normally prostate glands give trouble after the 50th year. In my husband's case age has not been the predominant cause of the enlargement or otherwise of the gland. It can be due to many other causes.

P.T.O

When I saw my husband, he was complaining also of other aspects of his health. He has developed Rheumatism. His eyes and teeth were giving him trouble. His finger joints are swollen and disfigured.

My great fears are complications.

What tactful and sympathetic treatment is he receiving? He is no longer a prisoner. He finished his sentence nearly three years ago. In all respects, because of his health, if for no other reason, he requires special treatment and attention.

I can not accept that he is receiving the best possible medical and other treatment. If he was, his prostate gland trouble would not have gone unchecked and he would not be suffering from his other complaints.

For two years he has suffered from Prostatitis. Except a few days massage of the gland in the first year

(3)
years) and a bottle of tablets on the second
year he has received no treatment for
this illness then it was only on the third
year that he was sent to hospital.

I wish again to ask that you
allow him to leave South Africa on
an exit permit together with his
family. There is no reason to keep
him locked up on Robben Island.

If you will not let him leave,
I ask you to have him moved to some
other place where I can look after him
properly. I want to make sure that
his health is good.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully

Veronica Sobushwe.

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