

**AM69**

# UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

DF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



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Now that the White referendum with its results is behind us, Black Local Authorities already exploding into the faces of the Nationalists and both Coloured representatives and Indian delegates are seating next to parliament the big question is: what will happen to the UDF?

Our commitment to resist the new dispensation began with the generation of refusal by the people to participate in the formalities leading to implementation of the government proposals for the various racial groups. That we succeeded in this is a known fact.

The percentage poll in the Black Local Authorities elections of November 1983 and the subsequent rejection of town councils plus the resignations of councillors from these bodies show that these are dying an early but slow death.

Even within the White community there are growing disgruntment with government policies. Resistance to militarisation and conscription is an indicator that even in this quarter Apartheid is increasingly questioned.

But, headstrong as they are the Nats are implementing their schemes. We on the other hand retain the mandate of the people to oppose that implementation and we shall, therefore, be moving on to oppose the Nats and their minions.

But what form, emphasis or direction will UDF activity assume?

Broadly, the Front remains committed to non-violent forms of resistance in which direct mass-participation will continue to increase.

Presidents: Oscar Mpetha, Albertina Sisulu, Archie Gumede  
Eastern Cape President: Edgar Ngoyi  
Apartheid President: Steve Tshwete

National Treasurers: Cassim Saloojee, Mewa Ramgobin  
National Publicity Secretary: Mosiuoa 'Terror' Lekota  
National Secretary: Popo Molefe



However, the democratic nature of the Front makes it imperative for it to draw specific emphasis of programme from the majority views of its affiliates. This means that for the present intensive consultation with affiliates, progressive unions such as FOSATU and community organisations will take precedent. Within the UDF itself the process of consultation will culminate in a national general council in the new year.

Meanwhile the pending appeal of Presidents A Sisulu and Oscar Mpetha who are both out on two thousand and one one Rand bail respectively, the arrest and treason charges brought against President Archi Gumede and other members of the national and regional executives councils, have opened yawning gaps in the structures of the Front. Thus our attention will be focused on reorganising ourselves.

Fortunately the campaigns of the last year or so have brought forward an array of talented and determined young activists who will enable us to fill up these openings.

With the support we command today, we have sufficient manpower resources to surmount this problem. We have mobilised the oppressed majority successfully - our task now is to organise them and hone the UDF into an even sharper instrument against Apartheid.

M LEKOTA

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