



UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

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4 May 1984

Our Dear Comrades

This is a special circular to all affiliates and officials, both of affiliates and the UDF, intended to remind them of those obligations we took upon ourselves when we launched the million signature campaign. At the same time we must draw your attention to specific tasks which must be carried out for the campaign to succeed.

In launching the Front last August we declared that our country's people reject Apartheid even in its tricameral form. We also pledged our energies to mobilise 5 Africans to effectively resist the enactment and implementation of these laws. It was in this spirit that we later committed ourselves to a collection of one million signatures as tangible evidence of our assertions.

And, now, three months since the official launch of one million signature campaign only one hundred and thirty signatures have been collected. Time is running out and we must examine ourselves and our performance in order to improve our work. In this regard we draw your attention to the following:

1. One of the major shortcomings is the lack of co-ordination between affiliate organisations in the various regions. The idea behind the UDF is to bring organisations together so that they co-operate in direct actions such as blitzes, house to house campaigning, etc. to bring to an end the isolation of one affiliate from another. But our observation is that in many regions our affiliates still operate in isolation from each other thus making a weaker impact than they would do were they to work together. We must insist on close collaboration between affiliates in regions and areas. Ideally this should be done directly by joint planning between affiliates or, at the least, by invitation to other affiliates to participate jointly in blitzes and any other proposed activities.

In this regard we also wish to reiterate that our non-racial character must be projected as much as possible. Co-operation between racially divided areas should be conscientiously pursued. There are many legal structures and risks involved but, without foolhardiness our activists can with creativity and imaginativeness overcome these obstacles.

2. We feel that a special remark must be addressed to our leadership figures at the level of the UDF national, regional and also

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figures at the level of the UDF national, regional and also at those in the leadership of affiliate organisations. Quite apart from the rank and file activists who occupy no official portfolios a unique obligation rests with this category of activists. Our leadership figures must not end up in meetings, on public platforms and newspaper pages but, most important they must lead us in the field of action. They must walk the streets and pavements ahead of our workforce and collect the signatures or endure the heat, cold, embarrassment or even abuse from police and adversaries.

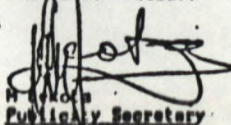
This direct participation has a double advantage. At one level it gives activists morale emphasising the seriousness and importance of the campaign to the masses whilst acquainting them with such leaders and the movement they represent. At the same time, it has the advantage of keeping such leaders in touch with the reality surrounding them and a first hand knowledge of the people and a reliable foundation for theories which are not imagined in the tranquility of lecture-halls, or private studies, but theories which are reliable because they are products of direct experience with the masses of our people. Many of our officials have not participated in the planning of blitzes, or have simply stayed away from such blitzes even when they could have formed part of the workforce. This is wrong practice. Our leaders should not behave like school-masters who give instructions and point with fingers for pupils to carry out. Our leadership figures must be frontline activists who inspire others and the masses to higher levels of resistance by words and deeds.

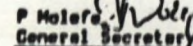
In this regard we must include all our senior (in age and experience) comrades and urge them to accompany younger activists in blitzes, etc. Their presence alone is enough to inspire confidence in the masses and their practical experience is invaluable in handling problems. Out of the exuberance and energy of our younger activists tempered with the wisdom and patience of age we can forge an invincible force of cadres.

We remain fully committed to the success of this campaign and, now as never before, we must rise up to the occasion. We must reach our target before the undemocratic August elections. After that date there will be no sense in going on. But if this campaign should fail our assertion that the people of 5 Africa reject Apartheid will ring empty and the Apartheid masters and their quislings will trample us under.

Once more, let us go out to teach our people of the evils of Apartheid, the New Constitution Act and related laws but, even more important, let us go and LEARN from the people themselves and with them, collect one million signatures as a monument to our rejection of Apartheid.

Amandla!!! Matla!!!


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