

We were abused, says party

By ANTON HARBER
Political Reporter

THE United Democratic Front has collected about 130 000 signatures in their "Million Signature Campaign", but believes that harassment and intimidation are harming the campaign.

The UDF publicity secretary, Mr Patrick "Terror" Lekota, said yesterday that the figure had topped 130 000 during a major blitz on Saturday.

In Johannesburg, about 4 500 signatures were collected in the city centre on Saturday morning.

Similar drives took place simultaneously in other centres.

The UDF said members were harassed and assaulted in Johannesburg while collecting signatures.

These included Ms Kate Phillip, president of the National Union of SA Students, and Mr Brendan Barry, Wits SRC president.

Mr Barry was allegedly assaulted and had forms snatched from his hand and torn up.

The blitz attracted a large police presence. "The State came out in full force to harass us. There were policemen on every street, in uniform and in plainclothes," Mr Lekota said.

He said the UDF was satisfied with the progress of the campaign in certain areas.

Saturday's blitz in Johannesburg was aimed at collecting 10 000 signatures.

The petition rejects the "Koorhof Bills" and expresses support for the UDF.

Professor Ismail Mohammed, chairman of the Transvaal Anti-PC Committee, said a number of incidents of vandalism and harassment had taken place during his organisation's campaign for a boycott of the coloured and Indian elections.

Posters had been destroyed and shops and surgeries in Newclare and Fordsburg had been vandalised with painted slogans "using offensive and abusive language".

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