

SOUTH AFRICA'S major extra-parliamentary opposition groups yesterday defiantly thrust their heads above the Emergency parapet.

In their first concerted effort to regain the political initiative from the government since the Emergency was declared, they launched a nationwide resistance campaign.

At a press conference in Johannesburg — hurriedly convened for security reasons — prominent leaders of the United Democratic Front, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Education Crisis Committee emerged from hiding to announce a "momentous" campaign for National Unity Against Apartheid and the Emergency.

The joint call represents a "reorganisation and galvanisation of our forces which have been besieged in the months of the State of Emergency", said Murphy Morobe, acting national publicity secretary of

# Unions, UDF plan mass resistance campaign

By SHAUN JOHNSON and SEFAKO NYAKA

its supporters who are intent on destroying the economic and social fabric of our society."

Ten crucial issues will serve to focus the campaign.

The UDF/Cosatu/NECC alliance calls on "all patriots" to fight for: the lifting of the Emergency; the release of Mandela and other political prisoners; the unbanning of organisations; the establishment of "people's education" and the reopening of schools; the halting of rent evictions; freedom of expression

and association; a living wage for all workers; jobs for all; adequate social security; and the right to strike.

Morobe was reluctant to specify precise actions likely to characterise the campaign. His hesitancy might have been due to security considerations. But he also stressed that "local structures are right now deciding on forms of action. We don't want to prescribe to or pre-empt them."

Two new dynamics would emerge from the campaign, said Morobe. "We are drawing in new sectors of our community which may not up to now have identified themselves openly

with the democratic movement. People like taxi-drivers, ministers and even ordinary township shebeens have been affected by the Emergency and need to come out clearly.

"We are also implementing a 'fence-shaking process' — people who support this campaign must come out publicly and distinguish themselves from forces still operating under President Botha's scheme of things. It is no longer good enough for people to pledge support in the dark. This campaign will result in the clearer drawing of the battle lines in the country."

The campaign will involve a concerted media and propaganda strategy "to undo the negative aspects of the Bureau for Information's propaganda machinery".

It is also seen as a major step towards unity of extra-parliamentary forces. Morobe hopes that "a process is now starting whereby we can attain the kind of unity we crave — disparate forces in the political spectrum can be brought in. We seek unity not only at the leadership level, but amongst the masses."

the UDF.

"After discussions, consultations and arguments between us, we have assessed our strengths and found ourselves ready to launch this campaign," he said.

Morobe was joined on the campaign launch platform by Sydney Mufamadi, Cosatu assistant secretary, and Eric Molobi, an executive member of the NECC.

The official campaign statement read: "There has never been a greater need for united action against the State of Emergency which seeks to destroy our democratic organisation, and against the apartheid government and

Asked specifically whether this unity drive could embrace other resistance tendencies like the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo), Morobe said he was "open to the question (of co-operation) with Azapo and other groups outside of government-created structures. But unity based on action, not leaders, is our foremost consideration," he stressed.

Morobe estimated the three organisations responsible for the launch of the campaign represented "at least three million South Africans".

Cosatu's Mufamadi said people were "simply sick and tired of the Emergency", and he felt that "objective reality" meant the time was ripe for massive support for the campaign.

Morobe admitted the UDF had suffered under the Emergency, but said the organisation was "still functional. We have intensified local organisation to ensure our survival. Street activity has never been better than it is now in some areas. There is a fair amount of national co-ordination taking place, enough for us to initiate this campaign, and to focus it. "We are not over-confident about this campaign", he said, "but know that we can pull something significant off."

No duration was specified for the national campaign, but it can be taken to be underway already — the national action by students and pupils planned for Monday is seen as part and parcel of the national unity call.

# No coercion over Christmas, says UDF

THE United Democratic Front will not tolerate any coercion in its "Christmas Against the Emergency" campaign, the UDF's acting publicity secretary, Murphy Morobe, said yesterday.

"We must make this a real community affair. Observance of this 10-day period must of necessity be a conscious act on the part of the people," he said.

Special appeals have been sent to church, community, sporting and other groups, but the actual implementation of the call would depend largely on regional responses.

Morobe said where street committees exist, they must take full

responsibility at the local level to make the call a reality.

"The obvious emphasis here is united action, or unity in action. Our experience of street committees recently and of the UDF generally has clearly shown that we cannot achieve anything unless we act in unity."

The Christmas drive is an essential building block in the "Campaign for National United Action", launched two months ago by the UDF, the Congress of SA Trade Unions and the National Education Crisis Committee, with the SA Council of Churches offering its support.

There has been confusion on whether the UDF's "Christmas Against the Emergency", to begin on December 16, had banned all forms of merrymaking during the holiday period.

"Without saying that no drinking of liquor should take place, we appeal for moderation," Morobe said. "Drunkenness in the streets must be avoided."

Morobe said sports and entertainment bodies have indicated their support for the campaign; there will be no sports fixtures or music festivals during the 10-day period.

But events like weddings and other

customary functions planned months in advance must be accommodated in the campaign, he said. "We thus do not expect any self-appointed campaign monitors to interfere at these occasions."

"The street committees are in operation and they shall be the only arbiters."

Morobe said during the 10-day campaign people should think about the more than 5 000 children who are doomed to the possibility of a Christmas behind bars.

"How can a nation celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ when our children are incarcerated?"

# UDF CALLS FOR 10 DAYS OF DIGNITY

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**THE United Democratic Front has called for the period between December 16 and 26 to be observed as "Christmas Against the Emergency".**

It has called on members of the community to observe these 10 days with dignity and pay tribute to leaders inside and outside the country, and to those who had died in the struggle.

The organisation also made three specific requests to be implemented by the community on these 10 days. They are:

- Shebeens to close early;
- Sporting events and jazz festivals to be cur-

## SOWETAN Reporter

tailed;

- The third request cannot be published on the advice of our lawyers.

An appeal has been made to young militants to exercise "maximum political discipline" and to ensure that the campaign is explained to all people well before December 16.

Mr Murphy Morobe, UDF's acting publicity secretary, said in a statement issued in Johannesburg this week that the period was also dedicated to more than 500 children who faced the prospects of spending Christmas in jail as they had been detained

under emergency regulations.

"In addition to making the call, we have formulated guidelines which we hope will eliminate most of the problems that may arise. By making the call about one month in advance, we hope to give our people sufficient time to prepare themselves and thus ensure that maximum unity prevails," Mr Morobe said.

The guidelines include:

- Observing the period with dignity;
- Avoiding drunkenness in the streets;
- Observing moments of silence and singing the national anthem;
- Visiting people in de-

tention and exile; and

- Conducting weddings and functions in the spirit of a Christmas Against the Emergency.

On December 16 and 23 all households have been requested to switch their electricity off and light candles. This symbolism must be accompanied by the singing of national songs and family rededications to the struggle.

"Christmas Against the Emergency will begin with the ringing of Church bells at 6am on December 16," the statement said.

The organisation will also distribute a unity pledge to be read in church services, ceremonies and all other gath-

erings.

It calls for the lifting of the state of emergency, the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, the unbanning of the African National Congress and other banned organisations, the reopening of schools and an end to rent evictions.

The statement also noted:

- Thousands of people have been detained since January;
- Several people have died in police custody;
- Thousands of students have been locked out of classes;
- Millions of people are without jobs; and
- Troops occupy townships and schools.

SOWETO was dark last night after residents switched off electric lights and used candles to honour the "Christmas Against the Emergency" call by the UDF.

Youths, chanting political slogans and singing freedom songs, ran along the streets reminding residents who had their lights on to switch off and light candles.

"Switch your lights off, light up your candles and read a pledge for national unity," the youths said.

In some parts of the township complex even street lights were off and most businesses were closed.

Although no songs were sung by families in the areas visited by *Business Day*, tension was widespread in the silent complex.

At shebeens, the usual noise from powerful music systems and laughter from dancing patrons were not heard, and some shebeens were not operating.

## Soweto says it with candles

SIPHO NGCOBO

In Alexandra, youths went from house to house urging residents not to drink too much liquor.

The UDF's Christmas Against the Emergency — the 10 days of unity — is to last until December 26 and the issue of detained children remains one of the major reasons for the campaign.

The UDF has said that on December 26, church bells would ring to signal the end of the campaign.

# Lights out at start of Black Christmas

Staff Reporters

Many townships in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging region were plunged into darkness last night on the first day of the the Christmas Against Emergency Campaign called, by a number of anti-apartheid groups.

Residents turned off their lights despite the distribution of pamphlets asking them to ignore the "Black Christmas" call.

There was an eerie silence in Soweto soon after 7 pm and the only lights to be seen came from candles.

There was also darkness in Tshiawelo Extension 3, Protea North and Mapetla, Dube, Zola, Orlando West, Orlando West Extension and Orlando East.

## MONITORED

Youths who monitored and enforced the switch-off also turned off street floodlights.

There were few people in the streets and no incidents were reported.

There seemed to be uncertainty about when to switch lights on again. Many families did not do so until after 9 pm.

On the East Rand, there were reports of lights being switched off in kwaThema, Katlehong, Vosloorus, Thokoza and Tembisa, and street lights were reported off in Tsakane, Ratanda and Duduza.

Residents of Mamelodi, Atteridgeville, Saulsville, Mabonane and GaRankuwa, all in Pretoria, also turned off lights.

Earlier in the day unsigned pamphlets were found scattered the streets of most townships.

## Detainees remembered with prayer and symbolic candles

By Susan Fleming

About 400 parents, friends and relatives of detainees gathered at St Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg last night to pray for people who would not be with them this Christmas. Red candles wrapped in barbed wire were placed around the cathedral.

The congregation was urged to turn off electricity from 7 pm until 9 pm each night until December 26 and to light a candle and remember "those who are suffer-

ing at this time".

The Government has admitted there are 256 children under the age of 16 in detention.

Bishop Simeon Nkoane asked for prayer that the children in detention could spend Christmas with their families.

A spokesman for the Detainee Parents Support Committee, Dr Max Coleman, said that during Christmas about 10 000 families would be without family members and 4 000 of these were under age 18.

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## Churches and sports bodies join UDF call

By SEFAKO NYAKA

A CROSS-SECTION of churches, sports organisations and over 20 organisations in the white community have responded positively to the call for a 10-day Christmas Against the Emergency campaign, according to Murphy Morobe, the United Democratic Front's acting publicity secretary.

The National Soccer League (NSL) and the SA Council on Sport (Sacos) have endorsed the call.

The NSL's PRO, Abdul Bhamjee, said his organisation has sent letters to clubs asking them not to engage in friendly games over this period. The NSL will wind up its fixtures next Sunday and most of its teams then engage in off-season friendlies.

The National Taverners' Association has requested shebeens to close at 8pm during the 10-day period, beginning on December 16.

Morobe said the campaign has also been endorsed by the Congress of SA Trade Unions and the newly-formed South African Musicians' Alliance.

"The three weeks since the announcement of the Christmas campaign have been spent making sure that people are informed as to exactly what the campaign entails," Morobe said.

"In addition to approaching other organisations, and discussing the campaign in the organs of mass democracy in the townships, we have produced an extensive range of media."

He said this was to make sure that whatever "state disinformation is spread — and experience tells us to expect this — the people will be prepared and equipped with an understanding of the campaign."

He said the campaign is being widely discussed in communities, by street committees and by some of the UDF's affiliates.

## Christmas Against Emergency campaign gets wide support

By SOL MORATHI

THE Christmas Against the Emergency campaign, running between December 16-26, is receiving support, according to the United Democratic Front.

The UDF says the campaign, "for 10 days of unity," has been warmly re-

ceived by a number of organisations and the private sector.

This includes a cross-section of churches, sports organisations such as the NSL and Sacos, the National Taverners Association, traders and over 20 organisations in the white

community.

The campaign has been formally endorsed by Cosatu and the SA Musicians' Alliance, and the UDF is optimistic a number of other organisations will follow.

The focus on the plight of detained children re-

mains one of the central thrusts of the Christmas campaign.

In a statement released this week, the UDF says the campaign will open with the ringing of church bells throughout the country at 6am on December

16. And candles will be lit and families will read pledges for national unity between 7 and 9am on the same day.

At 6am on December 26, church bells will ring to signal the end of the campaign.

## UDF launches Christmas of Concern in Cape

CP Correspondent

THE UDF in the Western Cape has launched a campaign highlighting the plight of more than 7 000 detainees who will not spend Christmas with their families this year.

At a Press conference this week speakers said that during the "Christmas of Concern" campaign, Christmas cards will be sent to various churches in the Cape for congre-

gations to sign.

On Thursday Black Sash president Mary Burton and Western Cape UDF vice-president Christmas Tinto were the first people to sign a joint Christmas card.

A series of lunchtime video screenings and church services will be held at the St George's Cathedral during December.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu will

also host a party for the children of detainees at his home in Bishops-court on Sunday, December 14.

UDF committees will also be holding a competition to raise funds to buy food parcels for detainees and their relatives.

"Many detainees are breadwinners and Christmas will be a tough period for their families. We hope to make it a little easier for them," a UDF spokesman said.