

(5)

Bavumile Herbert Vilakazi

- VCA

(Relatively NB)

Bavumile was born on 12 June 1955 in Evaton, the fifth son of a family of five boys.

His politisation began at an early age. He was living in Sharpeville at the time of the Sharpeville shootings in 1960. In 1967 his family was forced to move to Residensia. Residensia had previously been a white area and Bavumile remembers white people coming to visit the area but not entering their old homes simply because black families were now the occupants.

In 1977, Bavumile was elected president of the AME's church's Youth League and was involved in arranging social and religious programmes for the youth. At the same time he was a Sunday school teacher.

Bavumile's first job, in 1975, was as an admissions clerk at Vereeniging Hospital. Later he worked at AECI as a tapper until he was involved in an accident at work and left.

From 1979 until 1982, he worked for the Vaal Transport Corporation and became active in the Transport and Allied Workers Union. He became a shop steward as well as serving on its Vaal branch executive. He was involved in a work stoppage in 1981 where many workers were arrested, and charged.

In 1982, Bavumile left the Vaal Transport Corporation to join the Urban Training Project as a regional educator for the Vaal and Orange Free State.

His job involved assessing trade union educational needs and developing and conducting courses for them. He specialised in conducting courses on occupational health and safety as well as courses for other educators.

Bavumile has also had a long history of interest and involvement in civic matters. In July 1980, a year after he acquired his own home, R10 rent increases were announced. Residents upset about the increases met at Bavumile's house and decided not to pay the increase until they had received an explanation from the community council. A memorandum was drawn up, signed by 400 residents and submitted to the community

council. An attempt was made to meet with the community council, but they arrived four hours late and before the meeting was over, were escorted away by police. Residents resisted paying the increases for a month.

Bavumile attended the launch of the Vaal Civic Association and was elected area representative for Zone 3 Sebokeng. He was active for a short while, until the demands of his union work limited his participation.

On 26 August 1984, when the Zone 3 Area Committee was officially launched, Bavumile was elected vice-secretary. Co-accused, M NKopane, was elected branch chairman.

Bavumile was detained on 11 December 1984. He is married with one two-year old son.