

# “THE ANC LIVES LUSTILY IN ALL OUR HEARTS... ”

## — MOTLANA

SOWETO Committee of Ten chairman, Dr N Motlana, was applauded by all present at the unveiling of Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme's tombstone when he said the banned ANC lived “very lustily” in the hearts of all Black South Africans.

A former member of the ANC Youth League, Dr Motlana said he had often wondered “what kind of chemistry, what kind of intelligence” induced Dr Seme to found the ANC.

“I am very proud to have been associated with that organisation,” he said.

“It is banned by law in South Africa but it lives, and lives very lustily, in the hearts of all Black South Africans.”

(Many of those present indicated after Dr Motlana's speech that there was, of course, a “very marked difference” between the ANC as founded by Dr Seme and the present ANC Mission in Exile. Their allegiance would always be with the non-violent ideals of

the founding fathers of the movement, they said.)

Dr Motlana gave a short address at the graveside before Chief M G Buthelezi delivered the main address — see story opposite page.

Dr Motlana spoke of Chief M G Buthelezi as “my old friend” and referred to “the little differences we have had...” He went on to say:

“I am always amused when I meet visitors from Europe — I know they also go to Ulundi and meet Chief Gatsha Buthelezi...”

“They (the visitors) always say that Dr Motlana and Dr Buthelezi will never break bread together because “... he is a Zulu and you are a Tswana...”

“I always say to them that they could never be more wrong. That the South African Government uses our language differences in their attempts to keep us apart.

“That in their policy of divide and

rule they want to encourage some people into thinking that there is something peculiar in the languages we speak...”

Dr Motlana added: “Throughout the continent of Africa, divided as we are by tribal conflict, divided as we are by the numerous languages that we speak, it would have been the easiest thing in the world for Dr Seme to have founded an organisation that was based on the biggest tribal group in South Africa — namely the Zulu.”

“Similar things happened in Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe... even in Angola.

“But I always boast to those who seek to denigrate us South Africans that we Black South Africans are the only people on the continent of Africa who have not once formed a political organisation based on language, culture or religion.

“We are honoured and we must thank our maker and people like Dr Seme that when the ANC was formed it was not to be a tribal organisation and that it was to include everybody.”

Dr Motlana said Blacks must strive to stay as “one people”

“We are a nation state containing people who speak different languages who all owe allegiance to certain common historical values that bind us together as a nation...”

Dr Motlana said Blacks should honour Dr Seme's memory by action.

“By refusing to be divided. By refusing to kill fellow Blacks.

“Our real enemy is racist oppression.”

A few days after the ceremony at Dr Seme's grave, Dr Motlana was asked to leave the funeral of Cosas secretary Bongani Khumalo because, according to Press reports, the mourners were angry he had shared a platform with Inkatha President Chief Buthelezi.

Dr Motlana was reported in an interview as saying Cosas members had “problems” with the Soweto Civic Association.

“They believe the SCA is a Black consciousness organisation. I have nothing against BC philosophy. In fact it appeals to me. I have never had any conflict with it,” he said.

“But, my allegiance is with the Congress movement. And people know this. I have always tried to bring the two together.”



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