

# Each Citizen a Soldier

We in Umkhonto We Sizwe, do not want to pass unnoticed in history. We are committed to the armed overthrow of the fascist apartheid regime, an ideal for which we are prepared to lay down our lives. At the end of the day we want our people to revisit the battlefield, pick up our bones and say: **These are the bones of young men and women who loved their country and people.** That alone will be enough for us!

The Umkhonto delegates to the ANC Youth Conference on behalf of the entire army, commanders, commissars, combat ranks, those inside our country, the incarcerated, those who are facing the gallows and the fallen martyrs extend special revolutionary greetings to this conference. Fully acknowledging its historic significance and appreciating all efforts that have gone into its preparation, we express full readiness of the entire people's army in the implementation of the conference resolutions and decisions and orders of the leadership of the ANC at all times and to the best of our abilities.

Who is this Umkhonto We Sizwe: MK springs from the ranks of the downtrodden masses of our people. It is constituted of the best sons and daughters of our country whose heroic sacrifices have been an important factor in the elevation of our revolutionary struggle to its present heights. It is a political army engaged in a just war of national liberation. Its military line derives from the political and ideological positions of our revolutionary movement which it pursues unreservedly with all devotion.

## CHAPTERS

Umkhonto We Sizwe has written glorious chapters in the history of our struggle with the blood of the best patriots of our motherland. Its inspiration is drawn from the fighting traditions of our forefathers who stood firm and unflinching in the face of the brutal colonial onslaught that was bent on pillaging and plundering the material and manpower



resources of our country. Today the MK combatant has become the inheritor and perpetuator of these lofty fighting traditions of our people.

Since the launching of armed struggle more than 20 years ago significant strides have been registered, therefore elevating the popular struggle to higher summits. From the sabotage campaign of the early sixties, through the 1967/68 Zimbabwe campaign that repeated itself during the early seventies, Umkhonto combatants wading through the most trying conditions carried the banner of our revolution high, never for a moment succumbing to the heavy odds they have had to face.

The upheavals of June 16, 1976 that have gone down in the annals as the Soweto Uprisings ushered in a new phase in our struggle. The death-defying militants of June 16 have today swelled the young combat ranks of our army and they are not only shouldering responsibilities but continue to make heroic sacrifices. To this generation belongs martyred heroes of the calibre of Solomon Kalushi; Mahlangu, the Silverton Trio, the Lion of Chiawelo, the Matola 13 and many others whose names remain etched in our hearts and minds. We take this opportunity to express fullest appreciation, that this school, venue of this historic conference, has been named after Solomon Mahlangu — a young fighter who has become a symbol of courage and determination of today's youth which must continue to kindle the flames of revolution inside South Africa.

## **VICTORIES**

The victories that have been scored by our people's army this far have been possible, thanks to its popular support as an army thrown up by the people themselves. MK has today not only become a household name inside the country but also a force feared and recognised by the adversaries of our struggle. Through its skilful exercise of military tactics, high combativeness and daring it has imbued our people with more confidence. It has emerged in recent battles as the protector and defender of the popular cause, thus successfully liberating our patriotic ranks from the fear of the enemy. The growing mass upsurge currently sweeping the country bears testimony to this fact.

As an army shouldering the revolutionary war of our entire masses, MK acts in accordance with the enormous demands of the present level of our fight. Primary therefore on our agenda is to build upon the achievements registered in the politico-military front to root the war inside our country, thereby establishing a firm solid base from which



the revolutionary offensive must grow. In this connection, the building of our army in a revolutionary way, its consolidation in terms of strength, discipline, striking capacity becomes a priority. This calls for the all-round mobilisation of all able-bodied men and women from all sections, classes and forces ranged against the boer-fascist regime.

To further make it worthy of its name and prestige our army more than ever before must go through intensive political education aimed at developing it into an army conscious of its historic mission, the seizure of political power, which no enemy no matter his strength can deny us.

### **CHALLENGES**

These recitals would be incomplete if we fail to point out the arduous challenges that still confront us. In this regard we acknowledge the fact that our spectacular military actions this far have to a large measure satisfied the aims of armed propaganda only. This therefore emphasises the acuteness of transforming the revolutionary art of people's war into a living reality. The revolutionary war in its broad military sense must begin to rage throughout the length and breadth of South Africa. The enemy mustn't be given any respite.

Consonant with our revolutionary position as regards armed struggle as a superior striking weapon of our people, all efforts and energies of the various flanks of our entire revolutionary movement must be geared towards its unfailing escalation. It is within this light that we feel it is appropriate and quite expedient that our main blows should be directed at the annihilation of the enemy personnel. Since it is this very personnel which is not only harassing our people internally but also launching unprovoked acts of aggression against the Front-line States. As we stand on this platform the fascist hordes are spreading plunder and carnage in the south of the People's Republic of Angola. It is our noble task which we owe not only to our people, but also to the Front-line States and Africa to deny the Apartheid regime of further possibilities of such diabolic incursions.

Fully aware of the pressing acuteness of broadening of the revolutionary base of our liberation war, we wish to inform the conference with the hope that we are together in that, that the Umkhonto combatants are ever ready to carry out all orders of our leadership, their commanders and commissars at all levels in our army. We are satisfied that this army, our People's Army, the army of Nelson Mandela has amply demonstrated its capacity to sacrifice and shoulder responsibility. We are resolved not to allow its prestige to collapse.



**COMMITMENT**

We shall have betrayed our declaration of commitment to the cause which we made voluntarily if we do not begin to believe and lead the lives of revolutionary soldiers who have no other petty inhibitions and personal interest outside the movement, outside the people's struggle.

We owe all this to our people, our leaders incarcerated in fascist dungeons, the fallen and the maimed whose blood is a harbinger of bitter battles to come. We owe it to the six comrades presently facing the gallows. The names of Anthony Tsotsobe, David Moise, Johannes Shabangu, Thabo Motaung, Jerry Mosolodi and Simon Mogoerane are like a stirring battle-cry beckoning us to the front trenches to avenge the blood of our people.

The struggle inside the country is evidently developing a new momentum. The broad masses of the people united around local and national issues are engaging the enemy in fierce battles. It is *this solid political base* that guarantees our inevitable victory. Yet we are aware that this victory can only be ours through hard unremitting struggle, supreme sacrifice and unity in action.

The Vietnamese have a wise saying: "Each citizen a soldier and when the bandits come even the women fight!" I wish we could contextualise this slogan to apply to the present conditions of our liberation war.

**'THE ENEMY IS ATTACKING – LET US RESPOND '**  
**"VICTORY IS IN SIGHT – LET US RISE UP AND CLAIM IT!"**  
**ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!**

**DAWN PolitiXword No.6 Answers**

- ACROSS:** 1. Battery 6. CP 8. Scout 10. Bahule 11. e.g.  
 13. Retell 15. lot 17. it 18. Win 19. Oil  
 22. Antenna 23. AM 25. insane 26. Levy
- DOWN:** 1. Bukelwa 2. Tsar 3. Echelon 4. rout  
 5. Yule 7. Pep 9. Tel 12. Going 14. Lilian  
 16. TNT 20. In 21. Lapse 24. Men