

# INHERITORS

Fifteen years ago on August 13th, the heroic soldiers of the Luthuli detachment were, alongside ZAPU soldiers, injected into Zimbabwe, then Rhodesia, with the purpose of forging way to South Africa, then totally surrounded by colonial lands and therefore necessarily hostile territories. For nine months at Wankie and one year on the Eastern Front fierce battles raged and the 'invincible' armies of racists Ian Smith and John Vorster were on many occasions than one set fleeing. It is said that a hospital at Wankie had to be evacuated of civilians and transformed into a military hospital so as to cope up with the injury toll, let alone the dead. And that was during the first week of the encounter.

On our side also the war took its toll. And we partly owe it to them that Zimbabwe emerged independent for it is the invaluable sacrifices of men like Delmas Sibanyoni, Paul Petersen, David Molefi and many others who spilt their blood and laid their lives which contributed to the independence of Zimbabwe in 1980. It is also those gallant combatants of the Luthuli Detachment who established the fighting tradition of our army, a tradition inherited from the great warriors of Hintsa, Ndlambe, Cetshwayo and

## LEON TUME (MK - NORMAN NKOSI)

BORN: 10/04/57  
HOME: 9 Phuthani Street, Galetshewe, KIMBERLEY.  
EDUCATION: Std 8  
FAMILY: Judith Tume (Garment factory) - Mother  
Audrey and Pamela - sisters

Comrade Norman was one of the most remarkable young men from the June 16 detachment. Tall, quiet and unassuming,

# OF WANINKIE

Moshoeshoe, and passed on as an heirloom to the new generation of MK fighters who are today delivering deathly blows against the hated enemy in the fierce battles currently raging in our country. In battles far apart in time and space as Sipolilo and Silverton what has been displayed by our combatants and is in character with the tradition of MK, is the spirit of NO SURRENDER. "I may not live to see the black, green and gold flag hoisted, but I will die with as many from the enemy" is a vow of every soldier of MK.

Below we publish brief biographies of six heroes of our revolution who lost their lives in action inside the country. With their lives they have added glorious chapters to the history of our noble fight against racial discrimination and apartheid tyranny, for a free and democratic South Africa fashioned along the principles enshrined in the Freedom Charter. The imprint of names like Gordon Dikebu, Norman Nkosi, George Sello, the Silverton trio, to mention but a few, will forever remain indelible for they are associated with battles without which the horizon would not be this nearer.

he earned the respect of all comrades who knew and worked with him. After his specialised training abroad he became one of the most loved commanding officers at the camp where he worked. He was an asset everywhere and it was with reluctance that he was relieved of his duties at the camp for the front.





Although he knew very little of the area he was assigned to work in, his qualities overruled this consideration and he joined an urban assault unit in Johannesburg. Within his brief spell with the unit (of which Jabane was part), he had already established himself as a tireless and dedicated soldier. He earned himself the name "Likomanisi" in the unit through his zealous, unselfish and first-to-volunteer attitude towards work. Comrade Knox as he was called in MK ranks, was being groomed to take command of an urban assault unit.

One day while he and Jabane were on a reconnaissance mission around a mining area in Johannesburg, they were spotted by two white mine security guards in a van who accosted them with guns drawn. Norman was armed with a defensive hand grenade which he could not use in the given situation. Knox neutralised the first white guard immediately and in the ensuing gunbattle with the other he was hit three times before the man sped off with multiple gunwounds. Jabane helped carry staggering Knox to a house in a nearby village and asked the people to help him while he went to seek for help. By this time Knox was losing blood from the wounds sustained in the battle. He went out of his hiding place and by then the area was teeming with policemen who were alerted by the other security guard. He fought courageously, injuring scores of policemen before he was killed.

### PETROS LINDA JABANE (GORDON DIKEPO)

**BORN:** 06/01/57

**ADDRESS:** 113 White City Jabavu

**EDUCATION:** Form 3 in 1977

**FAMILY:** Father - pensioner  
Mother - unemployed  
One younger brother was employed  
Four sisters

**WORK:** Worked 1975 in Denver to raise funds for school.

**BACKGROUND:** Was active during the June 16 uprisings. Took part in the burning down of Hlubi's house. Left home 06/06/77 with others.



Comrade Gordon was a hardworking, disciplined and intelligent young man. Gordon was a small man - almost inconspicuous. He was consequently chosen for tasks which needed such a man. But he fought against this. He insisted he wanted to join an urban assault unit. He acquitted himself well in several operations and rose to Com-missar of the unit inside the country.

He died in Chiawelo from his own hand grenade when he would not surrender to the battalion of policemen who surrounded his hide-out. He had run out of ammunition after having successfully kept the fascist hordes at bay for a reasonable length of time.

GEORGE SELLO

REAL NAME: Robert Mokwena  
 DATE OF BIRTH: 04/04/52  
 PLACE OF BIRTH: White City Jabavu  
 EDUCATION: Form IV at Mohlakaneng (Pietersburg)  
 Trained and worked as a mechanic until September 1976.

During training the comrade displayed remarkable leadership qualities. Because of his outstanding qualities as a gallant combatant, popular and respected leader in his group he was made a unit commander. On several occasions he led his unit into action, displaying the determination and calm of a seasoned fighter in outmanoeuvring the





enemy. After a daring mission in the district of Acorn Hoek in the Eastern Transvaal the comrade was spotted by a policeman who called for reinforcements to capture him alive. Left with only a hand grenade after heavy fighting comrade George decided he would rather die than offer himself to the butchers. Patiently and calmly he allowed the police to come nearer to him. When they were within range he undid his hand grenade which killed him and a policeman and injured several others. Indeed only a soldier of the calibre of George Sello could do that. For us comrade George will be remembered fondly for his undying spirit of NO SURRENDER. He died on the 10/05/81.

### ZINDILE RAMOKOA

REAL NAME: Steven Mafoko  
 BORN: 27/04/57  
 HOME: 3650 Zone 3, DIEPKLOOF  
 EDUCATION: FORM IV - 1977 - Orlando West High School.

He learnt of the ANC from a friend and used to frequently listen to Radio Freedom broadcasts whilst he was still inside the country. In 1977 he had his first encounter with the police when he was arrested for allegedly inciting people to 'riot', ultimately to be released without charge. Soon after his release Zindile left the country to join Umkhonto We Sizwe with four other comrades, most of whom have rendered invaluable service to the movement.



Basically a quiet man, he used to say he was forced to take up arms by the wanton killing of unarmed school-children in Soweto and elsewhere during and after the historic Soweto Student uprisings. He received a heroes' funeral in Soweto after dying so gallantly following the Silverton bank siege.

**HUMPHREY THAMSANQA MAKHUBU**

**BORN:** 11/10/54

**HOME:** 560 Zone 1, DIEPKLOOF

**EDUCATION:** Form III, Orlando West High School - 1975  
 Diepkloof Junior Secondary School 1972 - 74  
 Vulamazibuko Higher Primary School  
 Dumezweni Lower Primary School  
*(Note school attendance same as Madela. The two were inseparable friends).*

**FAMILY:** Father - Isiah, Businessman, owns laundry and tents for hire.  
 Mother Assistant in the business.

Humphrey was part of the Madela group recruited by an MK man inside. They underwent the same training and were sent to the front together.

He was highly disciplined and hardworking. Mateu, as he was called in our ranks will be remembered fondly for his unfledging morale. He had a wonderful voice and loved to sing. There was never a moment for brooding when he was around.



**WILFRED NZAMELA MADELA**

**BORN:** 13/05/54

**HOME ADDRESS:** 940 Zone I, DIEPKLOOF

**EDUCATION:** Form V, 1974, Orlando High School.  
 Diepkloof Secondary School, form I - III  
 Vulamazibuko Higher Primary School  
 Dumezweni Lower Primary School

**FAMILY:** Mother - Miriam, teacher, Seepateng Higher Primary School.  
 3 Brothers - Siphwe, a clerk (Baragwanath) Fana and Themba who are still at School.





Worked as clerk for Barclays Bank 1975. In 1977 he worked as clerk at Baragwanath until he left the country and joined the ANC.

The comrade was recruited by an MK cadre who was assigned tasks including recruiting. He entrusted them with arms when he left in the wake of a manhunt for him. Madela was leader of this group of four. When the MK man failed

to return to them at the appointed time, they crossed into Swaziland where they were arrested with arms and sentenced to two years imprisonment. Madela was accused No.1. They served only part of the sentence and proceeded for training. During training Madela was exemplary and very well disciplined, his morale was always high and was a very humorous person. He was chosen for special tasks which needed men of his calibre and discipline immediately after completing his course. His conduct record was remarkable.

He was commander of the crew of four which was to operate in the Pretoria area until circumstances forced them into the memorable Silverton Siege where they died like heroes.

# Pick Up Their Spears!

*"We in the African National Congress do not imagine that the defeat of imperialism in Southern Africa will be quick or easy. We realise it will be long-drawn and bloody. But we are confident of the final outcome. As our forces drive deeper into the South, we have no doubt that they will be joined not by some, but by the whole African nation; by the oppressed minorities, the Indian and Coloured people; and by an increasing number of White democrats. Towards this victory we will fight to the bitter end".*