

## SOWETO STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

PRESS STATEMENT 4th NOV., 1976.

### LIQUOR SALES IN SOWETO:

The stand of all students and the youth of Soweto and other areas of the country is that sales of any kind of liquor remains banned. As we have stated in our previous statements, there can never be any drinking and celebrations of any kind whilst the whole Black community has gone into a period of mourning for their brave sons and daughters. These children, our colleagues, have died not because of the delinquency, but in the struggle for the liberation of all Blacks in this country. Their blood has been shed for us all. They laid down their lives that we may be free. Many shebeen queens and kings have pleded that they be allowed to sell because they are supporting one or two students at school with the money they get from liquor. We appreciate their kindness and generosity, but they should remember that "The end does not justify the means".

Our daily experience and that of the whole of Soweto residents is that nothing good has ever come out of shebeens. Many of our fathers and brothers have been killed in or out of shebeens. Thousands have been robbed of their pay packets after drinking in shebeens. Many of our black sisters have been raped and/or murdered by drunkards and thugs from shebeens. Shebeens have in reality become houses of vice and immorality. We cannot tolerate to see our fathers' pay packets being emptied in shebeens - and many wives and children suffering just because one or two students are benefiting from shebeen liquor sales. Hundreds of our colleagues have become delinquents, beggars or orphans as shebeen queens and kings become capitalists. Shebeens must close down. The WRAB have advanced the same benevolent reasons, that out of liquor sales they build schools, playgrounds and swimming pools for us. We reject all these. We are determined: Soweto shall go dry for the whole of this season. You cannot indulge in drinking while there is death in your family. Let us unite and be one in remembering our dead and in the fight for our liberation.

### SHOPS CLOSING IN SOWETO:

We, the students of Soweto and your children, wish to extend our praise, thanks and appreciation of the stand that the Soweto businessmen showed during the stay-at-home strike. These men complied with our humble request even though it meant loss of sales and profits. They sacrificed their business in order to join hands with us in the struggle. Power to all business men and women. We wish to make it clear that we are not in any manner against the Black peoples business. Our struggle is against the white exploit and oppressor. For the good brave stand the Black business men showed during the strike, we appeal to all Black people to buy their groceries, meat, milk and other essentials from these black dads and mums who sacrificed their profits for the struggle. We are determined that there shall be no buying from white shops during this Christmas season. We shall buy from our Black

shops. We appeal to all our parents to heed this call. We shall be quite active in the look-out for all sell-outs and betrayers of the people's call and struggle for liberation.

Bravo to all Black business men and taxi owners who stood with us. We are your children: sons and daughters who are prepared to lay down our young lives that you may be free.

In appreciation and gratefulness to the Soweto African Traders Association, and the Witwatersrand Taxi Association, for their support and sympathy, the trade hours are being revoked furtherwith: They can carry on with their business normally.

#### ON THE NPSL:

The NPSL has taken a brave step to show their solidarity with black peoples struggle for liberation by closing of the season early in response to the students call. The NPSL had no alternative but to demonstrate to all black people whether they are with us or against us.

There are those clubs who are protesting against this noble move by the NPSL and are suggesting that the National League should contribute money towards funerals of dead students. We wish to point out that "dead students do not need any money. They are dead. They died the death of heroes. No money can bring back their lives. What the students need is the physical and not the financial support of all Black parents, workers, associations and organisations in the struggle against the oppressive social, economic and political systems in this country of Azania.

The football association is the largest organisation in the country. They have received thousands and thousands of rands from the white industrial capitalists. But, we do not expect them to succumb to this capitalists mental seduction that they start to think of every national move in terms of money. Money can never buy us freedom. We shall expect all affiliate clubs to the National League to observe the NPSL move and support it without any question. Students hail this move. Students and all Black youths are the main supporters of soccer and other sports in the country. We are the bereaved. You are the bereaved. The loss of sons or daughters is felt by us all. The whole country has gone into mourning.

ISSUED BY THE SOWETO STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL.