

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UDF UNITES! APARTHEID DIVIDES!



NATIONAL OFFICE

KHOTSO HOUSE
42 DE VILLIERS STREET
JOHANNESBURG
P.O. BOX 10366
TEL: 29-1916
29-1917

NEW YEAR MESSAGE OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT - DECEMBER 1987

At the close of this year we pay tribute to all the victims of apartheid and those that are still struggling for a democratic, non-racial and unitary South Africa. We salute their courage, bravery and determination.

We pay tribute to all who have suffered the terrible tortures of imprisonment, especially the children and youth who were wrenched away from the security of their home and friends. These children who should be the heirs of all the great achievements of mankind, will bear forever the brutal scars of apartheid.

We especially remember those who even now sit and wait the noose of Pretoria's hangman; our comrades from Sharpeville: Mojalefa Sefatso, Dupa Diniso, Duma Khumalo, Francis Mokhesi, Reid Mokoena, Theresa Ramashamole and all other condemned patriots.

We pledge solidarity with the families and comrades of all who have already been so cruelly snuffed this year by Pretoria: Willie Webushe, Moses Jantjies and Miambi Wellington Mielies.

We salute the hundreds of thousands of residents who have resisted paying exorbitant rents for miserable houses that they have bought over and over already. We shall not forget all our people who have and still are confronting the armed might of the state in the bulldozing and evictions from their homes. The state demanded that you hand over your miserable earnings that you slaved so hard for and so desperately needed to keep starvation and disease from your door. Your struggles are bringing the Freedom Charter's demand that "there shall be houses for all" and that the sanctity of your home must be respected, closer to fulfillment.

To all those who have been denied even the most menial jobs while the resources of our country are used to subjugate the people of Namibia, Angola and others beyond our borders, we say we shall not forget you.

On the factory floor, on the building sites and in the mines, workers have fought relentlessly for a living wage and a fair share of our country's wealth. We pay particular tribute to all the workers who went out on strike in the face of police brutality and deportation to the homelands.

**Presidents: Albertina Sisulu,
Archie Gumede**
Executive chairperson: Curnick Ndlovu

National Treasurer: Azhar Cachalia
National Publicity Secretary: Mosiuoa Terror Lekota
National Secretary: Popo Molefe

We shall not be crushed

1987 witnessed a concerted effort by the state to crush the UDF and the entire democratic movement. However they did not succeed. They will have to gag the whole nation to crush the UDF. In fact we took the struggle to greater heights.

To the youth who have struggled so valiantly and suffered so much, our struggle is forever indebted. We all rejoice with you on the formation of the South African Youth Congress (Sayco). The traditional leaders of our people in the rural areas broke ranks with apartheid and formed the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Contralesa). This is a victory for the people of this country for it is testimony to our struggle having reached every corner of our country.

Despite the severest repression of the Front and the people of South Africa, we continued to meet and develop new ways of working - hence the formation of the UDF Women's Congress and Friends of the UDF. Under the nose of the regime 200 delegates from all round the country gathered at the National Working Committee of the UDF to evaluate and plan a new dynamic direction for the struggling masses of our country.

The masses of our country have always and everywhere set the pace of the struggle. When the regime called racist elections, the majority of the people of this country showed their contempt for this sham democracy by staying away from work. The May 6th and 6th stayaway was the biggest in the history of this country.

Persistent pressure locally and internationally eventually forced the state to release many children detainees though others still remain incarcerated. This national and international struggle forced the regime to release comrade Govan Mbeki.

Testimony to the resilience of our people was witnessed at the Third Consultative Conference of the National Education Coordinating Committee (NECC). Hundreds of delegates said "no" to new maneuvers by the educational authorities.

The way forward

"Unlock Apartheid Jails"

The UDF has launched the "Unlock Apartheid Jails" campaign, to demand the unconditional release of all political prisoners and detainees. This campaign must be ongoing in the light of the fact that our activists are constantly hunted down and detained.

We strongly condemn the harsh restrictions on comrade Govan Mbeki. Let all those who love freedom and peace demand in one voice that Mbeki should move freely in the land of his birth and speak to his people.

we must strengthen and broaden the "Save the Condemned Patriots' Campaign".

"Work for peace"

The UDF remains convinced that until such time that the South African government agrees to negotiate with its main protagonist, the ANC, there will not be peace in this country. We also believe that the government needs to create the climate for negotiations. This involves at least:

- * Unbanning the ANC and all other banned organisations.
- * Releasing Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners and detainees.
- * Ending the emergency.
- * Allowing all exiles to return home.
- * Dismantling of apartheid.
- * Withdrawal of troops from the townships and neighbouring countries.

Our experience has taught us that the ~~is~~ the Nationalist government is unwilling to bring about peace in this country. We therefore call on all people of South Africa, especially whites, as well as the international community to break decisively with apartheid and join the democratic forces.

We reiterate our call to our people in Pietermaritzburg to work towards peace in the region and unite in action against apartheid.

Defend, Consolidate and Advance

The National Working Committee of the UDF adopted "Defend, consolidate and advance" as our theme. It is imperative that we defend the gains we have made over many years and continue to take the struggle forward.

Central to this theme is firstly to protect and rebuild existing organisations and win over new affiliates to the Front. Secondly we must strengthen our alliances with our fraternal organisations such as Cosatu, NECC and the SACC. Thirdly, we must spread our moral and political influence to our entire community.

If we succeed in these tasks, we shall have taken the struggle to a qualitatively new phase. We need to unite and isolate the Nationalist government.

Reject apartheid elections

Our major challenge in 1988 is to once more rally and lead our people in our rejection of undemocratic municipal elections. The elections do not indicate any shift from apartheid. Instead they will entrench minority rule. As long as this is so, our people will continue to struggle for a South Africa where all people

shall govern.

We want to warn the government now, that their racist election scheduled for October are a non-starter.

The UDF has and will always reject piecemeal reforms, such as the KwaNatal Indaba, Regional Services Councils and Joint Executive Authorities.

The solution to the problems of this country lies in the demands of the Freedom Charter. The Freedom Charter enjoys the support of the overwhelming majority of the people of South Africa. In the place of the undemocratic elections, the UDF demands the implementation of the Charter.

Conclusion

Our people are no longer prepared to live under oppression and exploitation. The dawn of our liberation is in sight. To achieve this liberation we must build our organisations on every front and in every corner of our country.

Let the new year bring with it renewed energies and determination. Let 1988 open up new horizons for our struggle. Let us remember that one more day of apartheid is a day too long. Each day of struggle is a day closer to freedom.

VICTORY IS CERTAIN!
AMANDLA!

Albertina Sisulu,
UDF President