

UDF PRESS STATEMENT 10/2/88

MESSAGE TO OUR PEOPLE IN BOPHUTHATSWANA
AND OTHER BANTUSTANS FROM THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

We call on all our people who are trapped inside the bantustans to unite and participate actively to end the circus show, staged by the bantustan chiefs and their armed gangs. The latest mumbo-jumbo in Bophuthatswana coming weeks after a similar show in the Transkei is a direct challenge to all peace-loving people in this country to end apartheid and bring about a united, non-racial democratic South Africa.

It is not far-fetched to believe that these puppet shows are staged, managed, manipulated and controlled by the apartheid masters. The shows are deliberately designed to confuse and distract our people from the miseries and oppression in the bantustans.

The purported independence of Transkei, Ciskei, Venda and Bophuthatswana has brought in its wake great misery, poverty and repression to our people in those areas.

The puppets in the bantustans, like those in the tri-cameral parliament and town councils, are totally discredited and rejected by the people of South Africa. The reason why these people are rejected is because South Africans want a single united country whose government is based on the will of the people.

The bantustan chiefs and their brothers in other apartheid structures have further eroded the little credibility they might have had through their corruption.

To our people in the bantustans we say; the banning of your democratic organisations and unions in those areas is a deliberate attempt to prevent you from struggling for legitimate demands. Let us continue to challenge and expose the violence perpetuated by the bantustan puppets in carrying out the dirty work of their apartheid masters.

Lastly we want to warn the South African government and its bantustan chiefs that the patience of our people is being pushed beyond its limits. The Pretoria regime should be aware that the more they play games with our country the greater shall be our people's determination to struggle for freedom.

UDF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE