

FIVE YEARS of the UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

August 20 1983 to August 20 1988 - Public statement

Although the Front is restricted, and formally prevented from operating, it remains a vital source of inspiration to our people. Its achievements over the last 5 years continue to be felt today, and it remains a dynamic force in guiding the democratic movement. The regime has been able to prevent the Front from having a public profile, prevented its office bearers from speaking, but it has been unable to remove the Front as a critical factor in the equation of struggle in South Africa.

The masses of our people refuse to accept the silencing of the Front and other formations of the democratic movement. They openly align themselves with the Front, and take actions in its name. Among the organisations of the democratic movement, the authority and unifying influence of the Front continues to be invoked and respected. In short the masses of our people and our democratic organisations are jealously guarding the achievements won through five years of hard fought battles, under the banner of the Front.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UDF

- **THE UNITY OF OUR PEOPLE:** the campaigns of the UDF have united our people from every walk of life, in every part of the country.
- **THE UNITED ACTION OF OUR PEOPLE:** the campaigns of the Front have united our people into effective action against the regime, frustrating it in all its programmes and bringing about the most serious crisis of apartheid rule ever experienced.
- **THE CREATION OF A DEMOCRATIC CULTURE:** the Front has built on our peoples heritage of democratic culture codified in the Freedom Charter, and spread this to every part of the country. Entire generations of our people have become unified around one vision of a liberated South Africa.
- **THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL POLITICAL CULTURE:** When it comes to the open, mass organisations of our people the Front has unquestionably become the national political centre of opposition to apartheid. Where mass organisation previously existed at a localised level, the Front has become the vehicle for generalising the democratic movement to all parts of the country, and uniting the disparate organisations into a co-ordinated national formation. The national, regional and local authority of the Front remains a vital factor of cohesion to this day.

The people refuse to accept the banning of the Front. The symbols, slogans and positions of the Front continue to be popularised by the masses in the streets, factories and schools. The coming struggle against the Black Local Authorities, and the boycott of municipal elections will be inspired by five years of united action. The May 5 and 6 anti-election protest, the Sharpeville stayaway, and most recently the June 6,7,8 three days of national protest have been waged under the banner of the Front and its fighting ally, Cosatu. The special national congress of Cosatu was stamped by the open and rapidly developing alliance between Cosatu and the affiliates of the Front. Our youth continue to mobilise in the name of the UDF and its mighty youth affiliate, SAYCO. Our women, cultural and sporting bodies, churches, even businessmen, continue to look to the Front for inspiration. The Front is a spectre which continue to haunt the regime even after its banning and will haunt the regime to its grave. The UDF has survived four emergencies, the detention and restriction of thousands of its activists, the banning of affiliates, the assassination and harassment of its members, and now it will survive the restrictions. This is because, the Front is rooted in the masses, it is a product of the masses, it cannot be destroyed! **FIVE FIGHTING YEARS!! LONG LIVE THE UDF!! FIVE YEARS OF NATIONAL UNITED ACTION!!** Issued by "Let UDF Speak" Committee