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UDF statement on the second round of talks about talks
07/08/1990

The UDF is deeply encouraged by the outcome of the latest round of talks about talks between the ANC and the government. We welcome even more the commitment on both sides to deal with the real obstacles to negotiations.

The ANC's decision to suspend armed activity has indeed placed its sincerity and commitment to a political solution beyond reproach. This decision re-affirms the ANC's commitment to peace which it has upheld since it was formed. The ANC has unequivocally stated that the armed struggle was forced upon it through its banning and the outlawing of free political activity of the oppressed. It has always expressed its willingness to end hostilities when conditions for real change without armed action have been created.

The decision is not easy especially in the light of ongoing police repression, detentions and vigilante attacks. However, the suspension of armed activity does not take away the right of the oppressed to continue the anti-apartheid struggle, to defend themselves against aggression. It also does not take away the Liberation Movement's right to resume armed activity should this be necessary.

We sincerely hope the government will take steps to ensure the need to resume armed activity does not arise. We therefore call on the government to release all political prisoners immediately, to withdraw troops from the townships, to ensure the safe and unconditional return of exiles and to repeal all repressive laws. We also call on the government to act immediately against the war lords and police irregularities.

The UDF calls on its members, its supporters and all peace-loving South Africans not to miss the opportunities created by the outcome of the talks, even though much still has to be done to achieve a climate for negotiations. We commend the ANC for the exceptional way in which it represents the interests and aspirations of the majority of South Africans, in the face of grave difficulties.

Issued by Titus Mafolo
UDF National Spokesperson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Titus Mafolo', is written over the printed name of the UDF National Spokesperson.

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