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THE RELEASE MANDELA CAMPAIGN (R.M.C.)

The Release Mandela Campaign Committee in the Transvaal was formed in 1980. It came into being after realising that the campaign itself finished out at the end of 1980 due to the fact that the committee that organized and ran the campaign then was not co-ordinated. It also did not have a programme of action and a structure to sustain the campaign.

The Release Mandela Campaign Committee in the Transvaal is based in Soweto. One of its prominent members is MRS ALBERTINA SISULU - wife of WALTER SISULU who, together with NELSON MANDELA is serving a life sentence at Follsmoor Prison. ALBERTINA SISULU is the President of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in the Transvaal, and she is also one of the national presidents of UDF.

After its formation, the committee produced a working document. Copies of the document were made for distribution to interim committees that were formed in several parts of the country. The purpose of forming interim committees was:

- to intensify and sustain the campaign itself,
- to work towards the launching of the Release Mandela Campaign at a national level.

So far the following regions have attained official status, namely:

- Natal
- Transvaal
- East London

The Transvaal executive committee spearheaded single-handed the establishment of interim committees in many parts of the country. To accomplish this feat, the lack of funds became a bugbear or a loggy. Determined to make a success of the campaign, the executive committee had no alternative but to borrow 1500 to buy and to produce the Free Mandela T-shirts for sale, and to form interim committees. Unfortunately the

T-shirts were banned before most of them were sold. Our Release Mandela Campaign meetings were also banned. But this did not daunt our determination to form interim committees. We then took advantage of:

- the UDF'S 1 million signature campaign, and
- the launching of the Youth Congresses and the Women's organizations, to create interim committees.

As a consequence of these efforts, the following committees were formed:

- TRANSVAAL -

- (1) Mankweng,
- (2) University of the North,
- (3) Seshego, in Pietersburg.

- THE VAAL COMPLEX -

- (1) Evaton,
- (2) Sebokeng,
- (3) Bophelong.

- POTCHEFSTROOM -

- PRETORIA -

- (1) Medunsa University
- (2) Atteridgville,
- (3) Mamelodi

- JOHANNESBURG -

- (1) Soweto
- (2) East Rand
- (3) Lenasia
- (4) Rosmont
- (5) Newclare
- (6) Western Coloured Township
- (7) Eldorado Park

- ORANGE FREE STATE -

- (1) Welcome
- (2) Bloemfontein

- NORTHERN CAPE -

- (1) Kimberley
- (2) Vryburg
- (3) Kuruman
- (4) Taung

After the executive committee had discussed several issues with the Chief of Taung, it identified - as a measure of priority, the construction of the MANDELA bridge that will facilitate easy communication of the people in the area. Details of this project will follow later.

- EASTERN CAPE -

- (1) Port Elizabeth
- (2) Queenstown
- (3) Uitenhage
- (4) Cradock

Owing to the acute shortage of funds, the executive committee was unable to establish interim committees in some parts of the Transvaal, the Orange Free State and the Western Cape.

But as soon as funds are made available, the executive committee will be able to establish branches throughout the country.

A consultative meeting was organised - on a national level, and it was to have been held at the Indian township of Lenasia near Soweto. This would have been cheaper and more convenient. The meeting was scheduled for the 6th, 7th and 8th of April 1984. Unfortunately, on the 5th of April, the executive committee was told that the venue at Lenasia could not be used. The university of the Witwatersrand offered a venue free of charge. 150 delegates attended the meeting. To provide accommodation and food, the committee had to book a hotel. There was no alternative two cars and a van were used to transport the delegates from the airport, railway station, and the hotel. All three presidents of the UDF, namely:

- ...
- ...
- ...

attended the meeting. The meeting was officially opened by OSCAR MPEMA, the initiator of the Release Mandela Campaign.

Of the R2000 that we received from you, more than R10 000 was spent on the consultative meeting. Because the delegates failed to raise the money for transport, we had to send money to all of them so that they could attend the meeting. This was an extremely heavy strain on our finances. All the papers that were read had to be photostated for distribution to each delegate.

The executive's decision is to provide T-shirts for sale. These will cost more than R5000. In addition, a national Planning Seminar will cost more than R5000 to organise and run.

The Release Mandela Campaign has become a popular, and attractive feature in this country, funds are, therefore, needed to make it a success.

We therefore appeal desperately to you for assistance.

We wish to thank you very much for the assistance you have given without which, the Consultative meeting would not have succeeded.

The Release Mandela Campaign focuses on the Release of NELSON MANDELA. But stress is also made on the release of all political prisoners, as well as the return of all political exiles so as to take part in the National Convention. The Release Mandela Campaign is a Civil Rights Campaign for the abolition of Apartheid. Apartheid is not only immoral, but it is also regarded as a heresy.

Yours sincerely

CHALIMBA - CURTIS NKONDO
PUBLISHERS SECRETARY -
P.O. BOX 111

THE RELEASE MANDELA CAMPAIGN (RMC) ①

The Release Mandela Campaign Committee in the Transvaal was formed in 1983. It came into being after realising that the Campaign itself 'fizzled out' at the end of 1980 due to the fact that the Committee that organized and ran the Campaign then was not coordinated. It also did not have a programme of action and a structure to sustain the Campaign.

The Release Mandela Campaign Committee in the Transvaal is based in Soweto. One of its prominent members is Mrs Albertina Sisulu—wife of Walter Sisulu, who, together with Nelson Mandela is serving a life sentence at Pollsmoor Prison. Albertina Sisulu is the President of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in the Transvaal, and she is also one of the national Presidents of UDF.

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In its formation, the Committee produced a working document. Copies of the document were made for distribution to interim Committees that were formed in several parts of the country.

The purpose of forming interim Committees was:

- o - to intensify and sustain the Campaign itself,
- to work towards the launching of the Release Mandela Campaign at a National level.

So far the following regions have obtained official status, namely:

- Natal
- Transvaal
- East London.

The Transvaal executive Committee spearheaded single-handed the establishment of interim Committees in many parts of the country.

accomplish this feat, the lack of funds became a bugbear or a bogey. Determined to make a success of the Campaign, the executive Committee had no alternative but to borrow R6000 to buy and to produce the Free Mandela T-shirts for sale, and to form interim Committees. Unfortunately the T-shirts were banned before most of them were sold. Our release Mandela Campaign meetings were also banned. But this did not daunt our determination to form interim Committees. We then took advantage of:

- the UDF's 1 million Signature Campaign, and
 - the launching of the Youth Congress, and the Women's organizations, to create interim Committees.
- As a consequence of these efforts, the following Committees were formed:

- TRANSVAAL -

- ① Mankweng,
- ② University of the North,
- ③ Seshego,

Pietersburg.

THE VAAL COMPLEX -

- ① Evaton,
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- Potchestroom.

- PRETORIA -

- ① Medunsa University,
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- JOHANNESBURG -

- ① Soweto
- ② East Rand
- ③ Lenasia
- ④ Bosmont
- ⑤ Newclare
- ⑥ Western Coloured Township
- ⑦ Eldorado Park

(34) Orange Free State-

(5)

- ① Welcome
- ② Bloemfontein

- NORTHERN CAPE -

- ① Kimberley
- ② Vryburg
- ③ Kuruman
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Two cars and a van were used to transport the delegates from the airport, railway station, and the hotel. (7)

All three Presidents of the UDF, namely:

- Albertina Sisulu,
- Archie Gumede, and
- Oscar Mpetsha.

attended the meeting. The meeting was officially opened by Oscar Mpetsha, the initiator of the release of the R8000 that we received from

you, more than R10'000 was spent on the consultative meeting. Because the delegates failed to raise the money for transport, we had to send money to all of them so that they could attend the meeting. This was an extremely heavy strain on our finances.

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Yours Sincerely

Chairman - Curtis Nkondo.

Publicity Secretary -

Treasurer -

Collection Number: AK2117

DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: **Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand**

Location: **Johannesburg**

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