

ACCUSED NO 22 (THABISO ANDREW RATSOMO)

The allegations against accused No 22 set out in the indictment as amplified by further particulars are as follows. He co-operated to found the Vaal Civic Association and participated in a mass meeting in September 1983 in the Roman Catholic Church Small Farms. On 9 October 1983 he attended the founding meeting of the VCA at which he made a speech and was elected treasurer. He liaised between the VCA and the UDF. After he had visited the UDF head office he reported back to the Vaal Action Committee that accused No 19 would address a meeting in the Vaal. This was the meeting in September 1983 at which he was chairman. He disrupted meetings of candidates in the elections by the singing of freedom songs. He was a member of the Transvaal Media Committee who attended a course in Johannesburg on 21 and 22 January 1984. He identified with the aim of the UDF to overthrow or endanger the government by violent means by co-operating with the UDF and as a member of a body affiliated to the UDF and which actively co-operated in the Vaal Triangle against the government and Black local authority to destroy the latter. He was part of the management structure of the VCA which affiliated to the UDF and thereby became part of the UDF Transvaal and participated in its meetings, planning and organisation. These are the allegations against accused No 22.

The following facts were proved. On 16 June 1983 accused No 22 addressed the COSAS commemorative service and spoke in favour of the formation of a civic association. He joined the Vaal Action Committee after an opinion survey was made in 1983. He spoke against affiliation of the VAC with the UDF at that stage. He arranged for posters for the VCA launch and he was appointed by the VAC to stand for office in the VCA.

Accused No 22 on 18 September 1983 attended the UDF meeting in the Vaal which was addressed by accused No 19 and Bokala of the UDF.

On 8 October 1983 accused No 22 helped to determine the programme for the founding meeting of the VCA and he attended the launch the following day. He read out the proposals and was elected treasurer.

Thereafter accused No 22 attended committee meetings of the VCA and also visited councillor Ntswering to get him to withdraw from the election in 1983.

On 15 October 1983 accused No 22 attended the UDF Transvaal general council meeting on behalf of the VCA. He was co-author of the report to that meeting. Exh L.7.

He addressed the VCA meeting in the Roman Catholic Church zone 12 on 27 November 1983 and on 25 January 1984 he attended a meeting held in preparation to form a zone 7 Area Committee of the VCA.

Accused No 22 resigned from the executive committee of the VCA in February 1984 in order to further his studies in Grahamstown.

It is clear that accused No 22 was not involved with the Vaal riots or their prelude, the stay-away and march.

The state attempted to link accused No 22 to a UDF conspiracy by reference to a large number of documents found in his possession in Grahamstown. These show that he is the president of the Black Students Movement at Grahamstown and we are asked to infer from these that he and that organisation were involved in the unrest in Grahamstown.

Some of the documents are radical, but we need say no more about them as in our view the involvement of accused No 22 in Grahamstown politics was never part of the case he had to meet. The focus was on his involvement in the Vaal.

There is no proof that accused No 22 while in the Vaal and on the executive of the VCA was aware of any UDF conspiracy against Black local authorities.

The state has not proved its case.

~~Accused No. 22~~ is found not guilty and discharged.

## **DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985-1989**

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