

DA 77

Natal Witness 20/8/84

' Crowds flock to UDF '

(Acc. 20)

Crowds flock to UDF

by Carmel Rickard

THOUSANDS of people attended United Democratic Front rallies in Durban and Pietermaritzburg at the weekend to mark the first anniversary of the organisation.

About 6 000 people of all races attended the Durban meeting yesterday, while about 2 000 attended Saturday's meeting in Pietermaritzburg.

Each speaker who called on Coloured and Indian people to stay away from the polls on August 22 and 28 was applauded enthusiastically.

Mr Terror Lekota, publicity secretary of the UDF, told the Durban meeting that many times in the past Black people had agreed to try a new political system outside the mainstream of political power, divided for them by the Nationalist Government. Each time they hoped that this would be the beginning of real change but each time they had been disappointed.

"We have tried the Nats and the councils - they want us to use and we are not satisfied. We will not be duped by their latest attempt."

Archbishop Denis Hurley opened the meeting with a prayer to end apartheid. He said: "We cannot accept the new consti-

tution because, far from recognising the rights to participation of all in the economy, in politics, education and culture, it continues to enshrine the apartheid principle of separation, total exclusion of the African population and careful seclusion of so-called Indians and Coloureds in separate chambers - separate, unequal and powerless.

"Until the principle of genuine participation is recognised it is not possible to accept the new constitution. Nor is it right to expect those adversely affected to pay to an apartheid constitution the tribute of the vote that would appear to legitimate it."



Mr Terror Lekota

The Pietermaritzburg crowd was too big for the Lotus Hall and closed circuit television was used so those in an adjacent hall could participate.

Mr Virgil Bonhomme of the United Committee of Concern told the crowd that if Coloured people were to vote on August 22 they would be denying and rejecting their own blood relatives - their African mothers and fathers who are excluded from the constitution.

Report by C. Rickard, 66 Field Street, Durban.

NATAL
WITNESS.

20/8/84

Collection Number: AK2117

DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989

PUBLISHER:

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

Location: **Johannesburg**

©2012

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.