



PAC

PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA

The Main Change Bld
20 Kruger Street
2nd Floor, Office 205 F
Maboneng
Johannesburg
Tel: +27 11 100 2553
Fax: 086 666 2215
admin@pacofazania.org.za

Office of The President.

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SPEECH DELIVERED ON ROBBEN ISLAND TO MARK SOBUKWE MONTH 2020

[After observing protocol and recognizing guests and leaders of both the PAC and the Robben Island Museum Council]

Let me first and foremost express my gratitude to the Robben Island Museum Council and its executive management for taking a big step forward and boldly committing themselves to a year in their facility to honour a great son of Afrika, Mangaliso Robert Sobukwe.

This is a departure from the now boring behaviour of some state institutions and biased public officials to sideline and suppress the call to recognise and acknowledge the patriotic role played by leaders of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania in the struggle to bring about change and transformation in our beloved country.

I also want to congratulate all the Africanists who campaigned to raise the image of Sobukwe to remind the people and the Executive Authorities that the struggle was waged not by one man but by a whole collective of patriotic heroes, and that Sobukwe stood head and shoulders in prominence - as first among equals - to lead by example. The post-1994 campaign to bring awareness was constantly waged every year, every February month, to remember Sobukwe.

This victory is consolidated by the occasion today where the PAC leadership teams up with a state institution to shine the light on this noble son of the soil.

When Sobukwe completed his three year sentence after leading the Positive Action Campaign, the apartheid and colonial settler leaders could not bear to imagine what could happen to their hold on state power. They manufactured an extension of the General Law Amendment Act by inserting a clause meant to exterminate Sobukwe from society. Let's just agree that in the end they have failed. Sobukwe was accepted by all and sundry as a Leader of the African People, even when they punished him with solitary confinement, poisoning and banishment to Kimberly where they thought he would be isolated. They made Sobukwe a co-conspirator in the marathon secret Bethal Trial that started soon after he had passed away in February 1978 until the end of 1979.

Sobukwe's "cabinet of Africanist leaders" included Zeph Mothopeng, AP Mda, Anton Mzwakhe Lembede, Peter Raboroko, Maud 'Mamzungu' Jackson, Peter Molotsi, ZB Molete, John Nyathi Pokela, Barney Desai, Mfanasekhaya Gqobose, Vusi Make, Sabelo Phama, David Sibeko, Gora Ibrahim, Nomvo Booie and a host of others. Sobukwe was not alone. He led a collective leadership of outstanding sons and daughters of the soil.

Today we in the PAC say WE ARE THE VOICE OF SOBUKWE. His recorded electronic audio and visual images are not made available by the state and the international media that interviewed him as president of the PAC. The intelligence operations of the state sent their agents to find out what his views were, in prison where the infamous Gordon Winter (a Bureau Of State Security operative masquerading as a journalist) took his pictures and here on Robben Island when a parliamentary delegation came on site to find out if he still held his opinion on revolutionary Pan Africanism and the objective of overthrowing White Domination. They had a team of journalists with recording equipment with them. The Sobukwe audio visual material is still not made available for sinister reasons. However, we declare to be THE VOICE OF SOBUKWE.

WE ALSO SAY JUST LIKE THE AZANIAN MASSES, "SOBUKWE DESERVES BETTER." We call upon academic scholars in the various higher institutions to stimulate research and find the evidence that bears testimony to Sobukwe's greatness. He deserves better.

The PAC will submit to parliament a motion to provide Sobukwe the same status and benefits that is given to former presidents. It is difficult to accept that former settler state presidents like FW De Klerk and even the late PW Botha's estate enjoy the privileges from tax payers coffers while this outstanding patriot is ignored.

#SOBUKWEDESERVESBETTER

Izwelethu iAfrika.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mzwanele Nyontsho', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mzwanele "Teenage" Nyontsho

President: Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

Member of National Assembly