

HEROES OF OUR REVOLUTION

Petros Molefe (1924 - 1961)

Petros Molefe was born in 1924 at Mafeking district. He was the first soldier of Umkhonto we Sizwe to lose his life. He came from a family of three of which he was the last born. He got his primary education in a hard way. Petros and his brother could not go to school at the same time because they were herding cattle. When one was at school, the other looked after the cattle. Their parents died when he was still young. Therefore, Petros had to leave school at an early age to look for work.

He was a musician as well as a tap-dancer. He sang and tap-danced for a group called the "*Diamond-horse-shoe*". That is where he met a young pretty girl nick-named Bikenyana, meaning a tiny thing who later became his wife.

Molefe and his wife joined the African National Congress of South Africa in Alexandra township. He was inspired by comrades Seperepere and Mofutsanyana. The two comrades were his political idols. When houses at Dube were sold to the public, he bought himself a house there. This was in 1954. There was a young ANC branch in Dube and he and his wife were enrolled by the then secretary of the branch. He owned a Zephyr Zodiac car which was always at the disposal of the people, not only of his branch but the entire branches of Soweto. At times the ANC office in Johannesburg used his car for various tasks. The organisation had to pay only for fuel. Not a cent went to his pocket. He became popular in the Reef. He was also a member in the executive committee of the Dube Advisory Board.

ACTION

The late Molefe was always a man of action. Whenever there were general strikes and calls for a stay-at-home he was always in the fore-front, picketing at those who violated the call of the people. The last conference he attended was the All-in-Conference at Pietermaritzburg in 1961 as a delegate of his branch. As usual his car was packed with delegates from various branches. Like other delegates he returned home to implement Maritzburg resolutions. Hence December 16th 1961 found him in the fore-front of Umkhonto we Sizwe. He died in the first operations of Umkhonto we Sizwe. He was accidentally and tragically killed by a bomb which exploded before it was placed on the target.

The fascist South African police were shocked by the first operation of the brave men of Umkhonto we Sizwe. Many people attended the funeral of this heroic son of the South African revolution. Those who gathered at his grave sang freedom songs and made an honest vow that the life of Petros Molefe will be avenged.

As the revolutionary striking power grows and as the struggle intensifies, it is only a

matter of time before the lives of all martyrs in our national struggle will be redeemed and vindicated.

Petros Molefe was the first hero of Umkhonto we Sizwe to fall in action on the battlefield. Others have now also fallen. But the enemy trembles. And victory shall be ours within our life-time.

AMANDLA NGAWETHU! MAATLA KE A RONA!



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