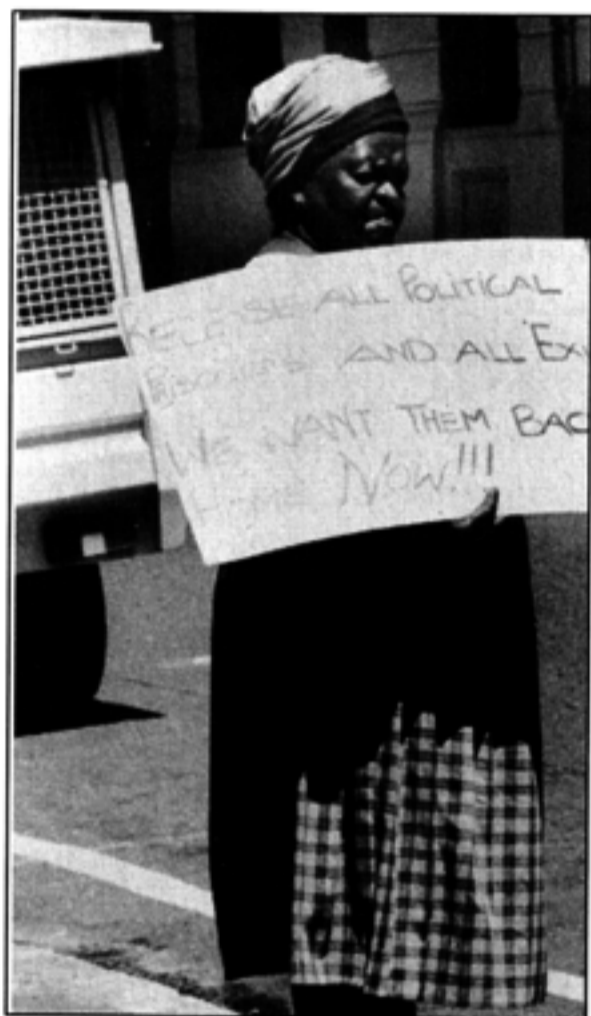


But you see, this was a very special day for her in another way too. She tells me that what also puts a spark in her heart is that on this particular day she is expecting your younger brother Moss to arrive from Robben Island, that notorious prison which for years had swallowed some of the finest sons of our country. I heard that he was one of the accused in the infamous Pietermaritzburg trial of 1978. It is said he was sentenced to an ef-



fective 18 years. He was accused Number Two. You can imagine how young he was then.

GREAT NEWS

Well the great news that your mother dished was that he was arriving that same day in the afternoon. Of course I could have waited to have a glimpse of him and take part in the toyi-toying that would follow, but I had to rush somewhere. But I promised that I would pass by and say 'hi' to him later. Which I did. Your mother would be pleased if you could send her just one photo. Anxiety has taken the better of her.

"Kwena"
(Saul Pelle)

Language policy conference

Distilling the experience of academics and community, labour and professional organisations the Cape Town Conference on National Language Policy acknowledged that it is not only the task of political parties to formulate and implement language policy.

It must be the product of a broad process of consultation.

The following are some of the conclusions the conference arrived at:

- No languages should be labelled as "minorities". All South African languages should enjoy equal status. Affirmative action should be taken to promote languages that have been marginalised.
- Within organisations meetings must be conducted in the language that the majority of participants understand. Provision will have to be made for others.
- African languages must be taught at least in those schools which have opened their doors to all races.
- Specialists in university African language departments must be able to speak these languages.
- Linguistic departments must include African languages.
- All people have the right to function in the language of their choice and therefore the right to translation and interpretation. Language rights of citizens must be on statute books.

A National Language Policy Conference, held 12 - 14 September in Cape Town, debated language policy for a democratic South Africa. Khetiwe Marais, of Afrophone Translations Service, reports.

- A Translators Charter must be drawn up.
- Companies must be given incentives to promote multilingualism in their operations.
- English could be one of the official languages – provided this does not preclude other languages.
- Multilingualism should be encouraged, not legislated; and, to this end, assistance should be offered.
- It is inappropriate to set a standard for spoken language – all spoken varieties should be acceptable within the limits of mutual intelligibility. ♦