

HEROES' DAY DECEMBER 16, 1979

YEAR OF THE SPEAR -

A GREAT STEP

FORWARD!



16 December, 1838, the day when thousands of Dingane's brave warriors fell resisting the Boer invaders, has lived on as a memorial to the heroes of the past, a commitment to future generations to win FREEDOM IN OUR LIFETIME! That is why, in 1961, the ANC launched the people's army, Umkhonto we sizwe, on December 16. In recognition of our proud historical tradition and the importance of Cetshwayo's 100-year-old victory over the British colonialists at Isandhlwana, the ANC declared 1979 the Year of the Spear. This triumph was celebrated by numerous events during the year, but the true significance of the Year of the Spear lies not in the commemoration of a far-off victory but in the mass struggles of today and tomorrow.

**Let us again on this December 16 come together
to pay tribute to the heroes of today and yesterday
and to rededicate ourselves to the freedom struggle**

And so on 16 December 1979

- * **WE SALUTE** Solomon Mahlangu, who lived and died like a true son of the soil.
- * **WE SALUTE** the militants of Umkhonto we Sizwe who blasted Moroka police station and escaped without loss, causing anger and dismay in the enemy's ranks.
- * **WE SALUTE** the numerous other cadres of the People's army who risked life and limb to escalate the preparations for armed struggle in every part of our fatherland. Even the enemy has been forced to admit that this is a fact, and that he is daily growing more alarmed at our steady advances on the war front.

* WE SALUTE the hundreds of thousands of our people who have made the YEAR OF THE SPEAR a revolutionary reality by their selfless and determined resistance to oppression and exploitation. The heroes of the YEAR OF THE SPEAR are not just a few individuals - they are THE STRIKERS OF Fatti's and Monis, Eveready, Frametex, New Germany, Rainbow Chickens in Hammarsdale and Worcester, DTB Cartage in Durban, Nel's Dairy, Elandsrand goldmine, the Ciskei Transport Corporation and Batswana Gare Transport, Bophuthatswana...

THE BUS BOYCOTTERS OF Ladysmith, Hammarsdale, Port Shepstone, Newcastle

THE PEOPLE RESISTING REMOVALS AND RESETTLEMENT in Crossroads and other squatter camps in the Cape, Daveyton, Bergville, Winterveldt, Alexandra, Clermont, Klipfontein, Pageview, the Batlokwa and countless other areas.

* WE SALUTE the many and varied progressive forces that have denounced and exposed the "new look" racism of Botha and Koornhof which wears a velvet glove to hide the iron hand that seeks to squeeze the life out of the people. These are the very same forces whose political positions are demonstrating with growing force the widespread acceptance of the ideals of our liberation movement and the correctness of the ANC's decision 18 years ago to declare war on the enemy, and take the only path that leads to freedom.

It is these many victories, won by determined struggle, that have made this year a great step forward!

We, the people of South Africa, declare that we enter the year 1980, year of the 25th anniversary of the Freedom Charter, more resolute, more united and more widely mobilised than ever before, inspired by the achievements of the YEAR OF THE SPEAR, and pledge to fight even harder, under the leadership of the African National Congress, for FREEDOM IN OUR LIFETIME!

WE PLEDGE TO:

- extend the unity and solidarity displayed in the struggle at Fatti's and Monis
- unite in the fight against the arbitrary Industrial Conciliation Amendment Act and to demand recognition of our independent and democratic unions by the bosses
- intensify resistance to forced removals and the whole Bantustan scheme and strengthen solidarity action with those facing removal in the spirit of the schoolchildren who demonstrated against the removal of the Makgotha people
- unite in opposition to rising rents, bus fares... with the same determination and solidarity with which the bus boycotters of Natal won their victory
- build black solidarity and rejection of all the regime's divisive manoeuvres intended to split Coloured and Indian South Africans from their African compatriots, and African people on a tribal basis.
- promote the ever-increasing desertion of democrats from the white laager, especially the racist army, and their full participation together with black revolutionaries in the glorious struggle for national liberation of our country from racism.
- strengthen our people's army for the seizure of power, for the building of people's power in a new South Africa of the Freedom Charter.

Long live December 16, HEROES' DAY!

LONG LIVE THE YEAR OF THE SPEAR!

FORWARD TO PEOPLE'S POWER!

AMANDLA! MATLA!