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PAC FAILS TO REACH FIRST TARGET by Benjamin Pogrund.

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Johannesburg: "National Heroes Day" was celebrated for the first time on Sunday August 2, at five regional conferences of the Pan-Africanist Congress held in the major centres of the Union. The day, set aside to pay homage to past African heroes, also commemorated the twelfth anniversary of the death of Anthony Lembede, a founder of the ANC Youth League, and an early African nationalist leader.

A speech by the Pan-Africanist Congress President, Mr. Robert Sobukwe, which was read at all the meetings stated: we are today going down the corridor of time and renewing our acquaintance with the heroes of Africa's past - those men and women who nourished the tree of African freedom and independence with their blood; those great sons and daughters of Africa who died in order that we might be free in the land of our birth.

Delivering his address personally to more than 200 Africans at the Witwatersrand Regional Meeting, Mr. Sobukwe announced the launching of a "status campaign" aimed at obtaining courteous treatment for Africans in shops and in their everyday lives.

"This is an unfolding and expanding campaign involving the political, economic, and the social status of the African, said Mr. Sobukwe.

"We are reminding our people that acceptance of any indignity, any insult, any humiliation, is acceptance of inferiority. They must first think of themselves as men and women before they can demand to be treated as such. The campaign will free the mind of the African - and once the mind is free the body will soon be free".

Stating that "we are fighting the whole concept of white supremacy", Mr. Sobukwe added: "right from the beginning of the campaign the leaders will be in front. They will do so under the slogan of 'no bail, no defence, no fine'."

The national secretary, for Potlako Leballo, told the Witwatersrand meeting that the Africanists had failed to reach their target of 100,000 paid up members by July 31. The membership, he said in fact totalled nearly 25,000 in 101 branches throughout the country.

The reasons for the failure he ascribed to lack of money and inexperience in organisation. A new target date for 100,000 members was set for December 16, when the Africanists plan to hold their first national conference.

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