

Karoo march for Sobukwe

Own Correspondent

GRAAFF-REINET. — This Karoo town came alive yesterday afternoon when a crowd of about 1 000 placard-bearing and slogan-chanting Africans took to the centre of the town en route to a cemetery.

The occasion was the unveiling of the tombstones of the former leader of the banned Pan Africanist Congress, Mr Mangaliso Robert Sobukwe, and his brother

Charles.

The Sunday tranquillity was broken and curious onlookers emerged from houses and businesses as the procession, singing freedom songs and waving massive banners, snaked through the town.

Police maintained a discreet presence. Officers dressed in camouflage uniforms were seen sitting on the national road about a kilometre from the graveyard in a radio car, keeping a watch on the

ceremony. Others were stationed nearby.

At the tombstone, speeches were made by a number of speakers, including Mr Benjamin Pogrund, deputy editor of the Rand Daily Mail, and Mr Sifano Nyaka, a representative of the black consciousness movement, the Azanian People's Organization (Azapo).

While Mr Pogrund gave an account of Mr Sobukwe as an indomitable and unrelenting man, Mr Nyaka criticized student liberals.

Mr Nyaka said:

"The black people in this country are not convinced about the commitment, dedication and sacrifice of the white liberals to our struggle.

"Some of us are still asking ourselves what happened to the militant Nusas leaders of the early Sixties."

He believed they had been absorbed in "privileged managerial positions".

Cape Times, 10/8/82

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- **Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand**

Location:- **Johannesburg**

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DOCUMENT DETAILS:

Document ID:- **A2618-Cn5-9**

Document Title:- **Cape Times: Karoo March for Sobukwe (clipping)**

Author:- **Cape Times**

Document Date:- **16 August 1982**