

SOBUKWE



Press to see him today

POLITICAL REPORTER

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

ROBERT SOBUKWE, former president of the banned Pan-Africanist Congress, is a prisoner on Robben Island and will be detained there after his sentence expires on Friday.

This was disclosed yesterday by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Vorster. Earlier in the day, Mr. Vorster's No-trial Bill had gone through its final stages after a rapid 10-day passage through both Houses of Parliament.

In his announcement, the Minister said Sobukwe would not be treated as an ordinary prisoner, but would have special quarters, right of movement, and leisure hours and could receive visitors weekly.

He will be the first political prisoner to be detained under one of the two 100-words-per-day clauses in the Bill, which is expected to become law tomorrow.

Sobukwe, a former University of the Witwatersrand lecturer and the P.A.C.'s 1960 campaigner against the pass laws, and was sentenced to three years imprisonment when captured at Swakopmund.

Press visit

Mr. Vorster said a small party of A.P. representatives and the A.P.A.-M.C. News Service staff and Mr. William Steyn (S.P.) would be taken to the detention centre today.

The announcement yesterday said: "The Cabinet has decided that Robert Mangoshe Sobukwe whose present sentence expires on May 3, 1961, will be detained under the provisions of the Constitution Act of 1961, as amended by the Criminal Law Amendment Bill which has just been passed by Parliament.

Large area

"Instead of being imprisoned in a cell, he will have at his disposal the quarters which up to the present have been occupied by District 6 white prisoners.

"He will have complete freedom of movement within a large prescribed area. Newspapers will be supplied to him, and he will be able to receive visitors weekly. He will be at liberty to travel like a prisoner, but receive special treatment in regard of food, recreation, and leisure hours. Items of clothing and medicine, dentures, etc."

Out of sight

A P.A.P.A. representative who visited Robben Island yesterday said Sobukwe's quarters are completely empty from the prison authorities on the island and up to night of 11, 1961 will not come into contact with visitors and will not work and 1961.

He will, in effect, be in the same position as a person under house arrest, except that the area to which he will be confined is much greater.

Robben Island, three square miles in extent, is five miles from the mainland.

From 1948 to 1952 it was used as a place of banishment for political prisoners and the 1961

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