

# Sobukwe 'cost

## R75,000 to

## hold on isle'

TRANSVAAL DAILY MAIL

STAFF REPORTER

9-4-70  
R.D.M

IT HAD COST the State R75 000 to keep Robert Sobukwe in custody on Robben Island for five years, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Pelsler, told a questioner at a National Party meeting in Klerksdorp last night.

He was asked by Mr. L. van Tonder, of Klerksdorp, why Mr. Sobukwe received R100 a month and a free house from the Government while some railway workers were getting salaries of less than R100 a month.

Mr. Pelsler said Mr. Sobukwe was sentenced to three years' jail in 1960. It had cost the Government R12 500 per year to guard him in prison.

"We used five wardens and two wardens with dogs 24 hours a day to guard him," Mr. Pelsler said.

### 'EDUCATED'

"Sobukwe was regarded as an enemy of South Africa and that was why he was kept in custody after he had served his three-year sentence."

Mr. Pelsler said after Mr. Sobukwe's release the Government 'could not just put him anywhere as he was an educated person who had earned a good salary before his arrest.

"He wanted to go to Johannesburg but we decided on Kimberley. We had to safe-

ourself against criticism from abroad and that was why we gave him a house at

R100 a month for three months.

"He was then offered R60 a month by someone which he did not want to accept. After that he was offered R40 a month which he also would not accept.

"I then decided to take away the whole allowance.

(Report by A. Richards, 19 Kritzinger Street, Klerksdorp).

***PUBLISHER:***

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

*Location:-* **Johannesburg**

**©2010**

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

***DOCUMENT DETAILS:***

*Document ID:-* **A2618-Cp2-13-1**

*Document Title:-* **Rand Daily Mail: Sobukwe cost R75 000 to hold on isle**

*Author:-* **Rand Daily Mail**

*Document Date:-* **9 April 1970**