PAC honors Sobukwe: ‘Go well, hero of heroes’

on December 5, 1925. He grew up toiling alongside his peasant family and attended a local primary school. He proceeded to do his high school education at the famed Cape Province’s Healdtown High School, where his brilliant pass in the final year won him a scholarship to further his studies at Fort Hare University.

During his years at Fort Hare he was elected president of the Students’ Representative Council and he also served as Secretary of the African National Congress Youth League, universally acclaimed as the League’s most dynamic branch at the time. Sobukwe was instrumental in the drawing and adoption of the 1949 Programme of Action by the ANC in Bloemfontein.

Sobukwe started his working career as a school teacher in Standerton, Transvaal, and was dismissed from his post for leading the Defiance Campaign of 1952 in that area. Later he moved to the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, where he won a post as a lecturer in African languages. This earned him the name of “Prof.” among his friends, the name he was to become affectionately known by throughout Azania and abroad.

PRESIDENT OF PAC

Comrade Mangaliso Sobukwe emerged as the foremost exponent of Pan-Africanism in the 1950s, and when the Pan Africanist Congress was formed in 1959, on April 6, he was unanimously elected as its president.

In 1960 he became a household word not only in Azania but all over the world when he brilliantly led the first Positive Action Campaign of the Pan Africanist Congress on March 21. The cold-blooded massacre of 69 of Sobukwe’s and the PAC’s followers at Sharpeville and several others at Langa, Nyanga, Vanderbijlpark and other parts of South Africa raised the fury of the Azanian people who came out in mass to join the campaign against South Africa’s hated passes law.

The international community was moved by the courage of the unarmed African demonstrators and appalled by the callous massacre perpetrated by the trigger-happy fascist police of the apartheid regime. The internal crisis led to the first-ever nationwide state of emergency to be declared in South Africa, and overscals raised the strongest and sharpest criticisms against apartheid tyranny.

In a word, the Positive Action Campaign launched by President Sobukwe and the PAC in 1960 focused world attention on South Africa like never before and ushered in the militant struggle which is now growing into revolutionary armed struggle.

For his role in this historic campaign Mangaliso Sobukwe was to remain a prisoner of the South African apartheid regime for the rest of his life.

Mangaliso Sobukwe is survived by his courageous life-long companion and comrade-in-arms, his wife, Zolwa Ven-onica; and his four children: Miliska, 24; Dinlesizwe, 22; Dedani, 19; and his twin brother, Dafinyebo. The Azanian nation joined them in mourning a worthy father and totally selfless champion of the people’s cause.

September, last year. On that same day, Sobukwe was operated on and had one lung removed at the Groote Schuur hospital in Cape Town. When he recovered sufficient strength the news of the assassination of his good friend was told to him. Sobukwe responded with these words:

“They aim to finish us off one after the other.” But he continued, “We must turn our grief into strength.”

A freedom fighter to the end, Mangaliso Sobukwe dies as No. 1 Co-conspirator in the biggest Terrorism Act trial now underway in South Africa—the case of Mothopeng and the Bethal 18.

President Sobukwe’s last wish was that he be buried at his place of birth in Graaf Reinet. He will be buried March 4 on the eve of the launching of the International Year Against Apartheid on March 21, 1978, the Anniversary Sharpeville Day, an epoch-making event the world community owes to the genius and courage of Azania’s Greatest Son of the Century—the first political prisoner on Robben Island in the 20th century—MANGALISO ROBERT SOBUKWE.

Hamba Kahle Qhawe Lama Qhawe—“Go Well, Hero of Heroes.”

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25 years since death of Stalin

March 5 is 25 years since the death of Joseph Stalin, the great Russian revolutionary who guided the people of the Soviet Union through three decades of socialist construction and led them to victory over Hitler fascism. Stalin was the successor to V.I. Lenin and carried out the work that Lenin had begun in building up the world’s first socialist country.

The capitalists tried many times during Stalin’s lifetime to attack the revolution, but he defeated them every time. On his death, however, the Soviet capitalists with Khrushchev and Brezhnev as their spokesmen were finally able to overthrow working class political power and establish their dictatorship again.

Today, Imperialists all over the world attack Stalin and slander his great contributions. They hope to keep the world’s people from learning about his revolutionary life and achievements.

But in the hearts of the Soviet workers, and oppressed people all over the world, Stalin still lives on, along with the lofty goal of communism to which he dedicated all his labor.

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Letters

the USSR, the Call is well aware. One needn’t examine the overwhelming differences between Vietnam and Kampuchea in population, economic base and military might to find reason to question the implication that Vietnam should now, suddenly, become dependent on Russian tank commanders for

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Bureaucrat

R.N., Honolulu