

The Office of the Chief Whip is undergoing a face lift to “reflect the rich history and legacy of the struggles waged in a quest for liberation in this country”. The image boost, which its initial phase kicked off last month, significantly coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Charter and the start of the second decade of freedom.

The re-imaging project involves a concoction of historic picture displays in the reception foyer as well as attractively hung portraits inside and outside the reception offices. Experts in the field of interior decoration and picture and information archive institutions were lobbied for this crucial project.

Project leader, Simion Nkanunu, says the project recognizes those who have sacrificed their lives as their contribution to the national struggle.

Chief Whippery Office receives a boost

by Staff Reporter

The job of researching the right images to fit in the imaging theme was not easy, adds Nkanunu. Months of hard work and assistance from outside companies ensured the smooth implementation of the project's first phase.

Nkanunu adds: “Given the kind of skills needed to achieve this goal we outsourced the work

The project, he says, is ongoing and more contribution is needed.

“We have thus far consulted with local interior designers that have been of great assistance. The administration area in the Chief Whip's office is the first phase of the project, with specific pictures that covers the story of the early years of the struggle. The outstanding



Project Co-ordinator Simion Nkanunu

“We wanted the outcome of this creative expression to be not only decorative but meaningful. This also serves as a reflection of how the struggle for freedom evolved. Visitors will enjoy the view of struggle icons such as comrades Rholihlahla Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Lillian Ngoyi etc. The new look and feel became necessary that in line with Batho Pele as a key government strategy we needed to align the physical appearance of the office to a more people friendly, more professional and even to create a much cleaner and neater environment,” says Nkanunu.

to an outside consultancy company to assist with concept and development. These are Comrades with a clear understanding of the ANC politically and otherwise. The arrangement was that they would source funding independently to cover costs, whilst the office will assist with whatever limited resources we may have, such as sourcing relevant pictures and approval. Mayibuye Centre has given us editorial rights and ownership to pictures we received from them. Readers' Digest and Mayibuye Centre have to date assisted with research information and pictures.”

photos for the front office are the official photos of all former Chief Whips to date, including Presidency”

Nkanunu has appealed to anyone in possession of historically significant pictures to contact his office. The second phase of the project would cover offices V51-V57 in the Old Assembly building. 

pressed ahead with racist legislation (Pass Laws, Bantu Education, Immorality Act, Job Reservation, Group Areas), ruthlessly suppressing dissent through such laws as the Suppression of Communism Act and the 90 days Detention Act.

Dr Alfred Xuma of the ANC, Dr Yusuf Dadoo and Dr Monty Naicker of the Transvaal and Natal Indian Congresses brought the three organisations together when they signed the 'Doctors Pact'. This led to the formation of the Joint Planning Council of the Defiance Campaign. Under the Suppression of Communism Act, Moses Kotane, J.B. Marks, David Bopape, J.N. Ngwevela and Dr Dadoo were banned. But they continued to speak out on the Day of Defiance on 26 June 1952, when thousands peacefully broke racist laws. Hundreds of protesters were arrested. By December there were 7986 convictions.

Chief Luthuli was restricted to the district of Grootville. By the end of 1955 most of the ANC and SA Indian Congress leaders were banned. Cape ANC leader, Z.K. Matthews, called for the drawing up of a freedom charter for a future democratic South Africa. The Congress Alliance formed the National Action Council which drafted the Freedom Charter. 2884 delegates from every corner of SA attended the signing of the Charter at Kliptown. On 5 December 1955, 156 leading activists were arrested and charged with treason. After two long, arduous years in the dock, the activists were freed on all charges.



Chief Albert Luthuli



Oliver Tambo



Japhet Rose



“We wanted the outcome of this creative expression to not only be decorative but meaningful. This also serves as a reflection of how the struggle for freedom evolved.”

“They were forced at last to register our presence... the white rulers were left in no doubt about what we intended.”

Chief Robert Sobukwe, President of the ANC.

