

**Obituary of A. Nzula by J.B. Marks,
22 February 1934¹**

Albert Nzula passed away on January 17th, 1934 as a result of inflammation of lungs. This sad and uncalled for incident ended his career in the revolutionary movement. The death of this young staunch fighter is a bereavement to the Communist Party of South Africa and to the millions of exploited toiling African masses, who suffer under the Iron Heel of oppression of Anglo-Boer imperialism. The name of Albert Nzula will for ever remain warm in the memory of the working class of South Africa.

Albert Nzula, in 1928 whilst a school teacher, met with the acquaintance of some of the leaders of the Communist Party of South Africa. After he was acquainted with the fundamental principles and aims of the movement. He there and then decided to throw in his lot with the champions of the course of the working class. He at the same time took to omnivorous reading of the work of Lenin and Marx.

Whilst an employee of the government he propagated Communist ideas and figured prominently on the platform of the Reds. For this he was stigmatised and expelled with disdain. Since then he became a professional revolutionist. Comrade Nzula's advent in the South African Communist Party was a very opportune one for a man of his calibre and uncompromising character.

Sectarianism, opportunism and white chauvinism under the Social Democratic leadership of Sir Percival Bunting, were rampant within the Party, when Comrade Nzula joined the revolutionary family against these anti-Bolshevist tendencies. Nzula fought with the ferocity of a tiger, for the line of the Communist International and for the Bolshevisation of the Party. Comrade Nzula was convinced that Communism is the only salvation for the millions of oppressed Negro Masses. He was convinced that once the African peoples understand what Communism has in store for them, they will shake their oppressors off their shoulders and run them into the sea. From conviction he carried on dauntless struggle against the Capitalist offensive. In 1929 Comrade Nzula under the leadership of the Communist Party mobilised the millions of oppressed and exploited African peoples to burn their 'Badges of Slavery' Passes and to violate all other slave laws that are prevalent, in this 'Stinking Slave Market' South Africa. In this campaign millions of workers participated despite the sabotage from the side of the reformist Kadalie, Thaele, Dr. Semi² and others of their clan. Comrade Nzula in defiance of British and Afrikaander Imperialism was the first to set fire to his passport and this revolutionary act

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1. Nzula died in Moscow of lobar pneumonia which he contracted having overdosed on alcohol and fallen asleep outdoors in a sub-zero temperature.
 2. Dr Seme.

was followed by millions of negroes through the length and breadth of the country. He was time and again flung into prison, but such actions from the side of the ruling class, he never allowed to dampen his revolutionary spirit. That Comrade Nzula was destined to be a leader is an indisputable fact.

'To leave in hearts to live behind is not to die.'³ The good work of Comrade Albert Nzula will not be forgotten. In remembrance, we shall keep the Red Flag flying.

J.B. Marks
South Africa

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2) 'V. urgent' (in Russian)

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Letter from M. Kotane to Politbureau, CPSA, 23 February 1934¹

Cradock C.P.
Friday, Feb. 23rd 1934

Johannesburg D.P.C.

Dear Comrades,

In my last report I promised my conclusions arrived at from recent observations. What I have learnt from my recent study has further strengthened my old conclusions (known only to a few leading elements in our Party), that our Party has and is suffering owing to being too Europeanised. That the Party is beyond the realm of realities, we are simply theoretical and our theory is less

Doc. 27

3. The quotation must have read: 'To live in hearts to leave behind is not to die.'

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1. This document is the only one in this publication that had been published previously. See: *South African Communists Speak: Documents from the History of the South African Communist Party, 1915-1980* (London: Inkululeko Publishers, 1981), pp. 120-2. It is included because of its importance. The letter was addressed to the Johannesburg DPC but a copy found in the Archive bore the inscription indicating that Kotane had sent it to the Politbureau.