A basic chronology of the UDF

1983

- January, Alan Boesak calls for the formation of the UDF at a SAIC Committee (TASC) conference in Johannesburg; A commission appointed; steering committee set up.
- May, Transvaal and Natal regions launched
- July, Eastern Cape and Border committees set up
- August, National Launch of the UDF set up to coincide with the government’s introduction of the tricameral legislation in August.
- November/December, The UDF began to focus on the planned elections for the Black Local Authorities (BLAs) and other local government in the townships. The UDF called for a boycott of the elections, but the campaign was run mainly through affiliates and the UDF only played a coordinating role. The UDF interpreted low voter turnout as a victory.

1984

- January, UDF Border region launched The Million Signature campaign is launched
- April, West Coast UDF and Southern Cape region launched
- July, Anti-tricameral parliament campaign launched
- August, UDF leaders arrested six UDF Natal and Natal Indian Congress leaders sought refuge in British consulate
- September, Regime held elections for tricameral parliament amid massive boycott
- Vaal erupted over rent boycotts; four local authority councillors killed
- October, UDF and ECC held 'Troops Out' campaign
- November, UDF organised Transvaal stay-away to protest troops in townships
- December, UDF leaders charged with treason in Durban; formation of the Federation of Transvaal Women as a UDF affiliate
- UDF led Black Christmas campaign

1985

- January, Senator Edward Kennedy visited South Africa JanInternational Year of the Youth
- February, At a rally to celebrate Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s winning of the Nobel peace prize, Zindzi Mandela read Mandela’s response to the government’s offer to release detainees
UDF offices raided countrywide; over 100 arrested; leaders charged together with previous six treason trialists in the Pietermaritzburg Treason Trial

March, Langa, Uitenhage massacre

April, Second UDF National General Council in Azaadville

Popo Molefe and Terror Lekota detained

June, Gaborone raid; Pebco Three went missing

Together with 20 others, Molefe and Lekota charged with treason in the Delmas Treason Trial

Matthew Goniwe, Fort Calata, Sicelo Mhlauli and Sparrow Mkhonto (the Cradock Four) found murdered

30th anniversary of the Freedom Charter

July, Mass funeral for the Cradock Four

State President PW Botha declared a State of Emergency in 36 magisterial districts; 136 UDF officials known to be detained

August, Victoria Mxenge murdered

Inkatha attacks intensified

Cosas banned

October, Communities engaged in consumer boycotts to protest black local authorities and national repression; UDF launched “Forward to People’s Power” campaign

December, Cosatu launched

National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) formed

1986

January, Murphy Morobe detained; released March 7

February, Six Day War in Alexandra

Northern Transvaal region UDF launched

March, State of Emergency lifted May 1986 UDF with Cosatu and other organisations organised national stay-away

May, Campaign against public safety bill

UDF ‘Call to Whites’ campaign

June, National State of Emergency declared

Murphy Morobe spoke on UDF under the State of Emergency

UDF launched ‘Unban the ANC’ campaign

August, White City, Soweto massacre

October, UDF declared affected organisation

Campaign for 'National United Action' (Cosatu, UDF, NECC, SACC)

'Christmas against the Emergency' campaign

January, The theme for the UDF for 1987 was 'Forward to People's Power'

Valli Moosa detained and released on April 12
April, UDF Women's Congress formed
May, Cosatu headquarters bombed
National action and protest
Day of national protest against whites-only elections
UDF National Working Committee 200 delegates from nine regions: STvl, NTvl, ETvl, ECape, WCape, NCape, Natal, OFS, Border; Anti-Bop campaign
July, Sayco 'Save the Patriots' campaign
August, Murphy Morobe and Valli Moosa detained (22 UDF NEC members in detention)
'Friends of UDF' launched
Cosatu union National Union of Mineworkers held strike to demand living wage
UDF adopted the Freedom Charter
November, UDF called for boycott of black local authorities
Govan Mbeki released

1988
February, UDF and 16 organisations and 18 individuals restricted; Cosatu restricted from doing political work
March, Day of action
May, Cape Democrats launched
June, 'National peaceful action' called by Cosatu supported by UDF and churches
September, Security police bombed Khotso House, national headquarters of the UDF
Murphy Morobe, Valli Moosa and Vusi Khanyile escaped from prison and took refuge at the US Consulate, Kine Centre, Johannesburg
October, Anti-municipal elections campaign

1989
February, MDM statement on Winnie Mandela
May, David Webster assassinated
August 31, Five days before the general election where only White South Africans could vote, South Africans all over the country organised a defiance campaign against the election. Various organisations from the Anti-Presidents Committee to students' organisations, Trade Unions, United Democratic Front, and many others successfully organised protest action for this day, the day was labelled 'Day of Rage' by the Weekly Mail and Guardian newspaper. The police reacted by detaining at least 100 people, banning protest marches and all meetings organised by anti Apartheid organisations.
September 1, A Defiance Campaign, similar to the 1952 Defiance Campaign, is launched by the UDF against banning, restrictions and segregation of hospitals and other public facilities.
October, Walter Sisulu and other Rivonia trialists released, National Reception Committee formed
December, Conference for a Democratic Future (CDF)
1990

- February, ANC and 72 other organisations unbanned; restriction on UDF lifted Nelson Mandela released
- March, UDF-Cosatu national women’s workshop
- May, First meeting between ANC and Apartheid government
- July, Week of ‘National Mass Action’ against violence in Natal
- August, Bantustan conference

1991

- Dissolution of UDF
- Mandate to the New Reconstruction Group

02 August 2012

- Reconstruction New Group registered UDF as a political party by IEC

2016

- UDF is to contest the first local government election 2016
- 27 May 2016 an Urgent Application was court rolled at the Electoral Court for Case No. 002/2016 between Applicant (UDF) and Respondent (IEC) and later dismissed.
- 01 June 2016 Application for Leave to Appeal (Case No. 002/2016) was court rolled with Case No. 114/2016 in the Constitutional Court of South Africa between Applicant (UDF) and Respondent (IEC)
- On 31 May 2016 Urgent Application was court rolled for Case No. 003/2016 between Applicant (UDF) and Respondent (IEC) and later dismissed.
- On 02 June 2016 Urgent Application was court rolled at the Electoral Court for Case No. 004/2016 between Applicant (UDF) and Respondent (IEC) and later dismissed.
- On 14 June 2016 Application for Leave to Appeal (Case No. 004/2016) was court rolled with Case No. 131/2016 in the Constitutional Court of South Africa between Applicant (UDF) and Respondent (IEC)
- On 20 July 2016 received a Respondent Answering Affidavit (Independent Electoral Commission)
- On 21 July 2016 as Applicant's filed a Replying Affidavit (UDF)
- On 14 September 2016 received through email, after I have made a follow-up, such an email was suggesting the matter was dismissed by the Constitutional Court on 7 July 2016.
- On 22 of November 2016 received a reply from the Office of the Public Protector (“Thomas Mogoba”) advising as per the provisions of section 6(4)(c)(ii) of the Public Protector Act that the Public Protector have concluded that the matter can best be dealt with by Chief Justice.
- On 14 of December 2016 the Human Rights Commission was there advising us to consult with an attorney to discuss merits of this matter before instituting an action

2017

- New application at the Constitutional Court was court rolled on 24 March 2017 with Case No. 69/17 CCT between Applicant (UDF) and Respondent (IEC) and later dismissed on 25.06.17