

# Chief attacks parks apartheid

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Tribune Reporter

THE maintenance of race discrimination — such as in the use of the Natal Parks Board game reserves — is both antiquated and “explosive” Chief Gatsha Buthelezi said yesterday.

The KwaZulu leader, who was speaking at the opening of the first hutted camp for Africans in an NPB game reserve, called on the Parks Board and also the Natal Provincial Council “to move towards scrapping all vestiges of race discrimination from all the facilities under their control.”

The new camp, at Masi-nda in the Umfolozi Game Reserve, is also for Indians and Coloureds.

Chief Buthelezi said it was an important occasion for blacks.

“It is the first time that an attempt has been made to recognise that blacks have as much right as their white countrymen to at

least part of the Natal game reserve complex.”

History showed that it was a myth that conservation was not part and parcel of black culture.

“This is of course one of those myths which have been foisted on us as an excuse for excluding us from enjoying many privileges in our beautiful country.”

The chief said that if he were to be visited by some important black leader from another part of Southern Africa there could be no better place for uninterrupted and fruitful discussion than in the game reserve lodges.

“But how is South Africa going to maintain her credibility in moving away from race discrimination if there are some facilities which will be seen as being kept aside for the exclusive use of one race group,” he asked.



# Vorster note now centre of Info row

Daily News Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG: A note passed to Dr Connie Mulder, then Minister of Information, by the then Prime Minister, Mr Vorster, during a parliamentary debate on the Citizen, has become the new centre of the information scandal.

Dr Mulder told of the note in a statement to the Sunday newspaper Rapport.

He said the note was passed during a parliamentary debate in May 1978 when opposition MPs, notably Mr Japie Basson (PFP), were demanding whether the Citizen or other publications were secretly funded by the Government.

Mr Vorster, Dr Mulder said, then sent him the note. It said: "I think you must answer the question as follows: The Department of Information owns no newspaper in South Africa and runs no newspaper in South Africa."

Dr Mulder said in his statement: "From this note I deduced that I was certainly not bound to reveal the project."

He answered the question using the words in the note.

However, Mr Basson replied that the question had not been answered and again asked whether secret Government funds were made available to the Citizen.

Dr Mulder replied: "I have already answered." But Mr Basson continued to press for an answer to the question.

Dr Mulder then replied: "I will directly answer by saying the Department of Information did not give funds to the Citizen."

In his statement, Dr Mulder said he had to make a decision on the spur of the moment.

"The clash of duties that arose here was between an oath of secrecy which I had made as a Cabinet Minister on the one side

and the convention and tradition of Parliament not to mislead the House on the other.

"Within a few seconds I had to choose between the two duties. It was almost an impossible choice, especially seen in the light of the fact that except from the then Prime Minister and Minister Horwood, the members of the Cabinet did not know of our involvement at that stage."

Dr Mulder said the Governments desire to have an English-language paper "ran like a golden thread" since its establishment of To the Point magazine was established with funds from the Prime Minister's budget, he said. Later the Prime Minister gave R2-million to the Department of Information's secret funds to enable it to continue with the magazine.

The next attempt to obtain an English language organ occurred when Dr Mulder said he was called to Mr Vorster's office and found Dr Koornhof, then Minister of Sport, there.

Dr Koornhof said the Natal Mercury was for sale.

Dr Mulder said Dr Koornhof had testified to the Erasmus Commission that the proposed purchase of the Mercury had nothing to do with the State, but was a private undertaking.

Dr Mulder asked why Dr Koornhof discussed this with him and the Prime Minister if it were a private undertaking.

He then told of a braai on August 9, 1975, when the new Boss offices in Pretoria were opened.

This was when Mr van Zyl Alberts suggested buying shares in the Saan group so as to control it.

The original desire to have an English-language paper ran like a golden thread from the creation of To the Point via the Mercury project, the Saan project and crystallised eventually with the Citizen Dr Mulder said.

He confirmed the claim by Dr Eschel Rhoddie, former Secretary for Information, that a "Committee of Three" considered secret projects. This committee consisted of Mr Vorster, Dr Mulder and Dr Diederichs and later his successor as Minister of Finance, Senator Horwood.

Senator Horwood knew of some secret projects, but he (Dr Mulder) and Dr Rhoddie refused to reveal projects to Treasury officials.

Dr Mulder also said the Committee of Three, consisting of Mr Vorster, Dr Mulder and Dr Diederichs, decided to make 10-million dollars available in an attempt to put the Washington Star in the hands of people less negatively disposed to South Africa.

## MULDER REFUSAL DUE TO FEAR OF CROSS-EXAMINATION, SAYS ERASMUS

JOHANNESBURG: Mr Justice Rudolph Erasmus, chairman of the Erasmus Commission, said yesterday that Dr Connie Mulder had refused to testify to the Commission because he was afraid of being placed under cross-examination.

The judge was one of the men mentioned in weekend statements by Dr Mulder, former Minister of Information, who rejected Dr Mulder's latest claims.

Another was Mr Gerald Barrie, former Secretary for Information and former auditor-general, who denied Dr Mulder's claim he helped decide that the State should found the magazine To The Point.

Mr Justice Erasmus said last week that Dr Mulder was told he could have access to the documents he sought provided he took the oath first.

Dr Mulder denied he was told this. If he had been, his position would have been entirely different.

Hitting back at Dr Mulder, the judge said Dr Mulder knew exactly what

the procedure was as he had testified twice before to the Commission and the matter had been explained to him again when he appeared before the Commission last week, prior to refusing to testify.

Mr Justice Erasmus said that as the Commission sat in camera, witnesses first had to take the oath before being shown previous evidence. This was to ensure they did not divulge the contents of such evidence.

"We then put all the facts given by previous witnesses, including documents that he may wish to see," the judge said. Dr Mulder could have asked for an adjournment to examine the documents.

In addition, documents not previously used as testimony were made available to Dr Mulder.

"He did not want to give evidence because he did not want to be cross-examined," the chairman of the Commission said.

He asked why Dr Mulder went to the Press

with further claims that a three-man cabinet committee approved secret projects.

The judge said Dr Mulder should have come forward to testify on this to the Commission after the Commission invited anyone to give evidence on cabinet participation before publishing its interim report.

The judge said a decision on whether Dr Mulder would be charged under the Commissions Act for failing to give evidence would be made this week.

Dr Mulder also stated at the weekend that the news magazine To The Point was initially financed from the budget of the former Prime Minister, Mr Vorster.

He said the decision for the State to finance the magazine was taken by himself, Mr Vorster, Dr Diederichs (then Minister of Finance), General van den Bergh (then head of the Bureau for State Security) and Mr Barrie (then Secretary for Infor-

mation)

Mr Barrie, who retired recently as auditor-general, denied he was part of any such group. "I had no power, as Secretary for Information, to give any approval for any project not financed by the Department of Information," Mr Barrie said. He pointed out that Dr Mulder said this was financed from the Prime Minister's vote.

Mr Barrie also issued a lengthy statement rejecting an accusation by Senator Warwick Webber of the New Republic Party that Mr Barrie had shown contempt for Parliament in handing his secret report on the Department of Information to Mr Vorster and Dr Mulder rather than to Parliament.

He said it would have been irresponsible as he did not have proof beyond reasonable doubt on unauthorised spending and falsification.

The Official Secrets Act and the Bureau for State Security Act also precluded him from auditing secret projects, said Mr Barrie.