

THE Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo)  
yesterday condemned the Nkomati Accord and  
- said the signing of the agreement had placed  
~ black South Africans under a siege.

By ZWELAKHE SISULU

- At a Press conference, Azapo's publicity  
secretary, Mr Muntu  
Myeza said as a result of

accord, the organisation  
would intensify its activity. %

This accord means

the signing of the

that we black people in

the country are being

placed under conditions  
of a siege and it has become  
necessary for us to  
galvanise all the forces  
we can marshal to come  
together and work out a  
joint strategy, he said.

" MR MUNTU MYEZA: Azapo's

To this end Azapo  
would be holding prepa-

-ratory discussion with

other black organisations  
to see where they

- could complement each

other.

recognised that pressure  
has been brought to  
bear on countries in the  
sub-continent to come  
to agreement with South  
Africa.

. In spite of that, he be-  
lieved that a clarity of  
vision would lead to the  
rejection of politically  
untenable conditions.

â\200\234We are glad to note for -

instance that Nelson  
Mandela has refused to

\* be released under simi-

,hberatlon movementâ\200\234f

~said, would emerge at

He said that Azapo\_

\_ing Easter Weekend in

.a programme,â\200\235 Mr My- P

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~ SOWETAN, Wi

needs,â\200\235 he said.

A joint strategy of  
black organisations he

the meeting called by  
the National Forum  
Committee (NFC) du:-

Paetermantzburgâ\200\230 â\200\234It is  
this internal summit

PRES SAMORA  
which will come up with s

MACHEL

eza szud

Azapo, he said, - be-  
lieved that the United  
States, South Africa and  
Israel were triplets of in-  
ternational destabilisa-  
tion: â\200\234What South Af-

rica is doing in the sub-  
continent Israel is doing

THE government-controlled Mozambican news media has unleashed a tor-  
in the Middle East and  
the United States is  
doing in Latin Amer-  
ica. 200 235 \

larly untenable condi-  
tions.

200 234 This is the kind of  
steadfastness that the

.. Mozambique media lauds it

Mr P W Botha

rent of commentaries to counter the widely-held view that the Nkomati  
Accord was a shotgun pact. .

Stung by suggestions that the Maputo government had been 200 234 bullied 200 235 by  
Pretoria into signing the agreement on Friday, Mozambican newspaper,  
news agency and radio commentaries said that South Africa was just as  
desperate for regional peace and economic stability as its eastern neighbour.

In fact, argues one of the many editorials which have been transmitted  
world-wide by news agencies, South Africa was forced to re-open negotia-  
tions with Mozambique by last year's diplomatic offensive by Maputo which  
culminated in President Samora Machel's tour of Western Europe.

Contrary to the western press view that the Nkomati Accord was a dip-  
omatic coup for South Africa, the Mozambican media see it as a victory  
for the Maputo government and 200 234 a defeat for the policies of destabilisation and  
confrontation. 200 235

The media commentaries also attempted to offset criticism that Mozambique,  
by becoming the first African country to openly sign a non-aggression  
pact with South Africa, had set back the international campaign to  
force Pretoria to change its racial policies.

An article by the national news agency, AIM, pointed out that nowhere  
in the Nkomati Accord, signed by President Machel and Prime Minister P  
W Botha, was it stated that either country was obliged to recognise the  
policies of the other.

200 234 Thus there is no change in Mozambique's position of not recognising  
apartheid and not recognising the Bantustans, 200 235 it added. -

On the morning the two leaders were signing the pact in the elaborate  
ceremony on the banks of the border river which gave the Accord its name,  
Radio Mozambique told its listeners that the gathering was 200 234 not a meeting  
of friends 200 224 far from it. 200 235

The signing ceremony was a meeting of realistic leaders who have de-

cided that a policy is needed to guarantee that nelther eountry serves as a  
base for attacks on the other,â\200\235 the radiosaid. â\200\224AFS. 3

THOUSANDS of people  
in South Africa and  
other major centres of  
the world will today bow  
their heads and observe  
a moment of silence, to  
remember the tragedy of

69 men, women and  
children died after being  
. mowed down by police  
guns,

They will remember  
the day that became sig-  
nificant in the calendar  
of South Africa's history

- of resistance, because it  
had been earmarked for  
a national demonstra-  
tion of the black man's  
abhorrence for the pass  
laws. P

Five days earlier, on  
March 16, 1960, on  
Mangaliso Sobukwe, the  
then President of the  
Pan Africanist Congress  
(PAC), had written a  
letter to the Commis-

sioner of Police, Major-  
. General Rademeyer,

What do the Sharpeville memorial services today and for the rest of the  
week mean? Political Bureau reporter SAM MABE takes us back in history to  
the events that started when the PAC led a campaign against the pass laws. ..

shot

warning him of the in-  
tended launching of a  
campaign against the  
pass laws.

Several thousands of  
men and women were  
not going to carry their  
passes on Monday,  
March 21, but would  
converge at various po-  
lice stations throughout

the country and surren-  
der themselves for ar-

in Sharpeville.

, When the day came,

he day,

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in Sh

Members of the PAC Â°

and the general public  
had been given strict in-  
structions to conduct  
themselves in an orderly  
manner during the dem-  
onstrations and to resist  
any form of provocation  
to resort to violence.

Appeal

An appeal was also  
made to the police not

to do anything that  
%i-\202d lead to the erup-  
tion of violence. They  
were not to give impos-  
sible commands to the  
demonstrators; who  
would at all times be  
more than ready to obey  
instructions.

A further warning to  
the police was that it was  
going to be practically  
impossible for hundreds  
or even thousands of

' people to hear and obey

to the letter, a police  
officer who would mum-

| ble orders that people

disperse within three  
minutes and almost im-  
mediatly order a police  
baton charge against

GRAVES: Some of the graves of people who died \them.

;

thousands of people re-

Mied at police stations as he had planned. The two police stations where a larger number of people gathered was Sharpeville, near Vereeniging and Langa, near Cape Town.

Shoot

More than 150 persons, including Mr Sobukwe himself, were arrested in Orlando East while others were arrested in other black townships around Johannesburg.

At Sharpeville, police reinforcements were called in the morning and some came in Saracen armoured cars.

Police claimed that they started firing when they were stoned and realised that their lives were in danger. None of the officers at the police station admitted to having given orders to the police to shoot.

But when the shooting stopped, 69 people were dead. They included eight women and

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10, children. Those in-

in the shooting were 180, ing

Police.

At Langa, demonstrators dispersed after they were baton-charged by the police.

Violence had, however, erupted and two

people were killed.

The Government's response to the pass demonstrations which had created a crisis in major black residential areas, was to temporarily suspend the pass laws,

On March 28, a national day of mourning was declared in Cape Town and this was followed by work stoppages and violence erupted in other centres in the Transvaal.

A State of Emergency was declared on March 30 and this was followed by further marches, street demonstrations and arrests in various parts of the

Western Cape.

On April 8 of the same year, the PA and the ANC were b,

in terms of a newly-

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lle

Passed law, the Unlawful Organisations Act. Today, 24 years later,

it is not only the Sharpe-

ville - and Langa massacres that will be remembered, but South Africa will be focussing its attention on the Pass Laws, which remain one

. Of the thorniest issues in

the country's politics.

The Government has conceded that pass laws are hurtful. But it has made no attempt to do away with them. Instead, Parliament introduced the Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons Bill, which has been criticised for seeking to further entrench the pass law system.



VICTIM: Armed policemen car-ying the body  
one of the victims of the March 21 shootings.  
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