

3 000 attend funeral of shot ANC official

UMTATA. — Over 3 000 mourners from across South Africa yesterday attended the funeral of African National Congress leader Mrs Doris Vilakazi (38), who was gunned down in Umtata last week.

Wounds

Mrs Vilakazi sustained five gun shot wounds and was in the company of her husband Prof Herbert Vilakazi and a family friend Mrs Hazel Majokweni when a lone gunman attacked them.

Prof Vilakazi was shot in the leg and Mrs Majok-

weni was seriously injured she is currently in a Durban hospital.

Senior ANC and SA Communist Party executive member Mr Govan Mbeki told mourners Mrs Vilakazi fought against the exploitation of workers.

Role

Mr Mbeki also said Mrs Vilakazi played a very important role in keeping the ANC informed on matters affecting workers in Transkei.

Transkei's Minister of Agriculture and Forestry,

Chief Ngangomlaba Mantzima, who spoke on behalf of the Transkei Government, praised Mrs

Vilakazi for her good work at the Transkei Agricultural Corporation. —Sapa.

Temples to be rebuilt

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan. — The government said it had started to rebuild hundreds of Hindu temples damaged or destroyed earlier this month by angry Muslim mobs.

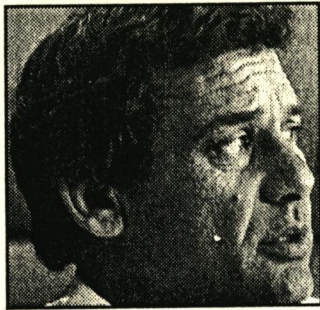
The conservative Islamic government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told Parliament that reconstruction work

began last week with money from the federal Ministry of Religious Affairs. It did not say how long reconstruction would take.

The government also has promised unspecified compensation to Hindu families whose homes and businesses were set ablaze by Muslim gangs. — Sapa-AP.

LETTERS

Federalism cannot be ignored



Talking point . . . Sol's "mid-Atlantic" accent.

Sol's chance to get accent right

I was delighted to learn Mr Solomon Kerzner is at last going to be put on the map in the United States (Tonight! December, 17).

Perhaps he could use this opportunity to acquire a genuine east coast, west coast, Bronx, mid-west or southern accent instead of the phony mid-Atlantic accent he now uses.

G White

Northcliff

The story on alleged Apla atrocities in King William's Town and Queenstown by Shaun Johnson of The Star was accurate on the matter of this terror having forced the Government and the ANC to make "powerful common cause" against it, but the idea of these two now "occupying the political centre" of negotiation thinking is less so.

His idea that the two parties are forced by circumstances into a mutual political centre implies that the fundamental issue of federalism can be papered over.

Federalism in SA is about the constitutional organisation of government into reasonable regional/ethnic units granted as much power as possible under a National Bill of Rights. Yet at present the

ANC/SACP alliance continues to adhere to a unitary state organisation policy and shows no sign of changing.

Chief Buthelezi's KwaNatal state proposal has some good legal infrastructure in laying out what constitutes a politically autonomous federal region. But the nullification tone of certain of its clauses says this is a confederal set-up, which can never work.

Chief Buthelezi overlooks South Africa's own history on this issue, as he pushes his Natal provincial referendum. Senator Heaton Nicholls, longtime Natal United Party warhorse, said in the early '50s: "We have not been able to build a nation. Let us accept the divorce and end the dogfight."

Then as now, Natal pro-

duced a leader who refused to allow his regions' people to be nationally stigmatised as troublemakers. Then as now, Natal produced a leader who overlooked that his regions' people were spread out across a sub-continent and any unilateral solutions left them more politically isolated when away from home.

Buthelezi's plan is seen as overlooking "the supposed Inkatha multitudes permanently settled in the country's industrial heartland", while the Senator's plan was found then by the United Party's Strauss to "abandon hundreds of thousands of South Africans to the tender mercies of Strijdom's Broederbond Republic".

In the contentious decades leading to the American Civil

War, the first issue to completely divide the North and South was the tariff and the South's answer, based on the doctrine of States Rights, was legal "nullification".

Legal concepts like these led to Yugoslavias. South Africa can become a nation if the true political centre, the supporters of a reasonable regional approach, can be heard. A national referendum by all eligible South Africans on the question of a legitimate federal set-up would end any need for unilateral destinies and sort out this question once and for all. A world awash with ethnic anarchy anxiously awaits this South African solution.

Steven L Perry

Cheltondale,
Johannesburg

Mandela pays tribute to Helen Joseph

DEATH has robbed the people of South Africa of one of their finest daughters, African National Congress president Mr Nelson Mandela and ANC national chairman Mr Oliver Tambo said of anti-apartheid activist Ms Helen Joseph in a statement in Johannesburg.

Ms Joseph (87), died at Johannesburg Hospital at 2pm on Friday after being admitted after suffering a stroke

on December 12.

"Those of us who have had the privilege and honour of working with Helen Joseph feel particularly saddened by her death.

"We feel cheated because her death has occurred on the eve of the triumph of the struggle to which she had dedicated her life.

"No amount of state prosecution was enough to deter her from her

chosen path of serving the people of South Africa in the struggle for liberation.

"Her resilience, stubbornness and determination earned her the wrath of the racist regime while enhancing her stature of a tireless leader amongst the oppressed."

In the 1950s, Ms Joseph was a leading figure in the Congress of Democrats, participat-

ing in the Defiance Campaign.

On June 26, 1955, she was one of the Congress Alliance leaders who read out the clauses of the Freedom Charter at the Congress of the People at Kliptown.

On August 8, 1958, Ms Joseph, together with the leadership of the Federation of South African Women, led 20 000 women in a march on the Union Buildings to protest

against the pass laws.

In 1958, the government charged her, along with 156 other anti-apartheid activists with treason. At the end of the Delmas treason trial, she and her co-accused were acquitted.

For 26 years she was listed by the government and prevented from being quoted.

For nine of those years she was either under house arrest or

banned.

In 1983, Ms Joseph was made the patron of the United Democratic Front.

Ms Joseph was the honorary president of the National Union of South African Students (Nusas).

She wrote three books — If This Be Treason, Tomorrow's Sun, and her autobiography, Side By Side. — Sapa.



HELEN JOSEPH