

Mavuso praises Inkatha backing

By Tony Stirling

THE most important development to take place in Black local politics in recent times was the signal given by the Inkatha President and KwaZulu Chief Minister, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, of his organisation's support for those Black councillors who have resisted ANC violence and intimidation for them to resign, says Mr John Mavuso, Transvaal's MEC for Community Development.

Mr Mavuso said it should be noted that those Black councils which had been least affected by the ANC campaign — operated through the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast) — were those which had a history of organised civic political organisations, which were, in turn, linked to larger national organisations such as Inkatha or the National Forum.

He said the most content message that there would be organised resistance to the ANC's plan to get all Black council's to resign had been given an

Inkatha meeting in Soweto on February 23, where Dr Buthelezi had praised those who had stood firm against intimidation and violence and indicated Inkatha support for those serving in local authorities who were working for orderly, peaceful change.

Mr Mavuso, a Zulu to his marrow, said the gathering had been attended by 50 000 people, and had included a spectrum of serving councillors from across the Transvaal, including Xhosa and Tswana.

"It has taken a long time, but now the message is clear. If the ANC carries on with its campaign, it will meet organised resistance," he said. "That message is being spread throughout the Transvaal."

Mr Mavuso said this was not idle talk. It had been shown in last year's upheavals in the PWV area that there were people capable of organising resistance to the ANC.

The majority involved in violence with the ANC were not card-carrying members of Inkatha. They were ordinary Zulus, who wanted strong and fair leadership, and

had given the ANC the most terrible beating of its existence.

"They were the third force the ANC was talking about. There were no policemen with painted faces," he said.

Soweto was an example of what he was talking about. The council of Soweto, where the majority of people were Zulu-speaking, was intact.

This was so because the ruling party, the Sofasonke Party was a civic political organisation which had been in existence since the mid-1940's, and its members had links with national organisations such as Inkatha or the National Forum.

They and other similar councils in the area had been able to put up an organised resistance to ANC plans to force their resignations.

It was true that a number of prominent civic leaders had resigned their posts in the face of pressure from the ANC, including people like Daveyton's Mr Tom Boya.

But despite the resignation of Mr Boya, Daveyton was still able to muster a quorum on its council.

In most of the instances where resignations had

been forced, those who resigned had stood alone to face the pressure of unremitting intimidation and not infrequent attacks, and even murder by those seeking to oust them.

There was ample evidence that the ANC, and organisations linked to it, were behind this violence and intimidation.

But there were many other cases where councillors had stood firm against attacks and intimidation of the worst kind.

They had refused to step down even when their homes or businesses were razed.

"The spines of the councillors have been stiffened by the words of Chief Buthelezi. They know that they will be supported by Inkatha, and they are refusing to be brow-beaten by the ANC," he said.

Mr Mavuso said the objective of the ANC campaign was the same as during the period of unrest from 1984 to 1986 — to make the townships ungovernable and install its own structures.

He would not concede that the ANC strategy had been successful.

Claims to this effect had been exaggerated.

There were a number of townships, like Munsieville, which had no council to begin with, and the ANC had not succeeded in getting all councillors out by its target date of the end of November.

The organisation was having its own problems, as evidenced by its holding of a consultative conference instead of a national conference last December, which had been forced upon it, according to Mr Mavuso, because of the failure of its membership drive.

"They (the ANC) are learning that it's not easy out there. The have been unable to convince or coerce the silent majority, who are against them, to join them," he said.

Mr Mavuso, a former member of the Inkatha Central Committee, said that a few years ago when a Black politician, Mr Steve Kgame, had been shot, there had been "panic", and a police guard thrown around his home.

"I ordered it to be removed at the first opportunity. I told them that when I needed help, I would ask for it.

"Mr Mandela and his friends in the ANC leadership are in a sense prisoners when they come to Soweto. They have to have the ANC's 'young lions' guarding them."

When I took up this position I deliberately chose to keep living in Soweto. I walk among my people without protection — that is more than Mr

Mandela can claim," he said.

Mr Mavuso's claim that the way for councils to halt ANC attempts to force them to resign was through "organised resistance" and linkage to larger national political bodies other than the ANC was borne out to an extent by information collected on Natal by the Citizen.

Only two of the 17 Black councils falling under the Natal Provincial administration are unable to muster quorums, and officials put this down to the fact that to a large extent the Black councils there are linked to Inkatha, which has its biggest support base in Natal.

● Tomorrow: fears of councillors who quit.

Renewed violence hits Reef

*Metel Witness p. 1 Lead
18/3/91*

Six killed in fighting at hostel, nine die in Alexandra

JOHANNESBURG — At least 15 people died yesterday in the latest outbreak of violence in Johannesburg, nine of them in strife-torn Alexandra township where the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) staged a mass "peace rally".

The worst single incident occurred at George Goch hostel when six people were killed and six injured in fighting that erupted at 4 pm, an hour after the Inkatha rally ended.

In Alexandra, three people believed to be Inkatha supporters were killed while the IFP rally was in progress, after their minibus strayed to a stadium where members of the African Congress (ANC) had gathered, according to Obed Bapela, of the Alexandra Civic Association (ACO).

A group of IFP supporters reportedly abandoned the meeting and tried to launch a revenge attack on township residents after the minibus killings, but police and troops intervened and held the armed group back.

When the rally ended, security forces took positions along different routes in the township to prevent further violence.

However, a man was killed and another injured when a vehicle drove into a group who had apparently left the venue of the rally and were heading home, a police spokesman said.

According to Inkatha spokesmen, the IFP had called the rally to foster peace in the township, still recovering from a week's bout of violence that claimed nearly 50 lives. The violence began last Saturday.

The ANC opposed the holding of the rally, but were unable to get it cancelled despite heightened fears of a planned attack by alleged IFP followers.

Bapela said ANC supporters, whose application to hold a rally this weekend was turned down by the authorities, had gathered at the Alexandra Stadium to prevent Mangosuthu Buthelezi's followers from using the venue.

According to the ACO spokesman, the

three people killed near the stadium had been attacked because of fears that the unknown minibus occupants were about to launch an attack.

Their deaths on Sunday morning raised fears that large-scale violence could break out at any moment in the tense and troubled township.

Police said last night that security forces were "in control of the situation".

A police spokesman said police and troops had mounted patrols in the township, and security had been tightened at George Goch hostel.

After the Alexandra rally, police shot dead a man at a squatter camp after "a mob" allegedly ignored an order to disperse, he added.

"The warning was ignored and rubber shots were used to disperse the mob. However, the mob stormed the police and attacked them with stones."

The mob had gathered at a scene where four shacks were burning. Police fired teargas, rubber bullets and shotguns to disperse the people, according to the police spokesman.

The Alexandra Health Centre said last night that a man died on arrival at the clinic, and 26 other people suffering from gunshot wounds, stab wounds and lacerations, were brought to the centre.

Earlier, police said six people had died between 6.25 am and 2 pm in Alexandra. Five had been hacked to death and one shot dead.

The deaths yesterday put a strain on efforts to restore peace to the violence-ravaged township, now under curfew after been declared an unrest area by the Government.

In the latest call for an end to the township's violence, a senior official of the IFP called for peace when he addressed the Inkatha rally yesterday.

Velaphi Ndlovu, a KwaZulu MP and a member of the IFP central executive committee, said "peace should prevail and we really need a stable community". — Sapa.

Inkatha deaths raise new fears

Patrick Laurence
in Johannesburg

THREE members of the Inkatha Freedom Party were killed in Alexandra on the outskirts of Johannesburg yesterday, sparking fears of a resurgence of the fighting between Inkatha and the African National Congress which claimed the lives of nearly 50 people last weekend.

The three Inkatha men were killed when the minibus in which they were travelling was stoned by a pro-ANC crowd on the way to the township stadium where Inkatha was holding a peace rally. When its occupants tried to flee on foot a mob gave chase, stabbing and hacking the three Inkatha men to death.

The sequence of events leading to the killing was described by Obed Bapela, a spokesman for the pro-ANC Alexandra Civic Organisation.

The killings took place amid rising tension in the township, triggered by rumours that pro-Inkatha vigilantes were preparing to invade the township and attack ANC members. Tension

was accentuated by the firing of shots by unknown gunmen at a church where refugees from last weekend's violence had sought sanctuary and by the decision of the authorities to allow yesterday's Inkatha rally to go ahead after refusing the ANC permission to hold a meeting on Saturday.

The purpose of the planned ANC rally was to report back to residents on the outcome of the ANC-Inkatha peace meeting last week, according to the chairman of the ANC in Alexandra, Popo Molefe. Attempts to persuade Inkatha to hold a joint rally with the ANC instead were not successful, he added.

At last week's peace meeting both parties refrained from blaming one another, accusing "criminal elements" of responsibility instead.

The leader of the Inkatha delegation, Frank Mdalose, disowned the pro-Inkatha men with red bandannas who had been in the forefront of the fighting. The leader of the ANC delegates, Jacob Zuma, spoke of the need to identify and isolate "criminals" masquerading as ANC or Inkatha members.

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WASHINGTON — President George Bush telephoned ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela earlier this month at Mandela's request, and was stunned when the ANC leader launched an attack on the US triumph in the Persian Gulf.

Several well-placed administration officials said Mandela read Bush the ANC's official statement on the Gulf war and accused the US and its coalition partners of acting belligerently.

Bush was already aware of the statement and had challenged it in a letter to Mandela last month.

Mandela is on holiday and could not be contacted last night. ANC officials could also not be reached.

Mandela attacks US during call to Bush

The conversation is reported to have taken place on March 6, after Mandela had put through a number of requests to talk directly to the President. They are said to have spoken for more than 30 minutes.

Bush was said to have been visibly angered by Mandela's remonstrances.

At the same time, however, Mandela took a more moderate stance on sanctions than he has publicly or privately with sanctions proponents in the US.

Bush told the ANC leader he would soon be consulting Congress about easing US sanctions measures.

Troops and S A P out, urges Buthelezi

ULUNDI—The Chief Minister of KwaZulu, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, yesterday called for the immediate removal of every policeman and soldier in Alexandra, the scene of bloody clashes between hostel residences and shack dwellers during the past 10 days.

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, he said his Government called for 'their immediate replacement by a new and much more substantial police and army presence', under hand-chosen commanders, to ensure that 'not one more person died in the conflict'.

Last night Law and Order

By Patrick Leeman
Political Reporter

Ministry spokesman Capt. Craig Kotze said Mr Adriaan Vlok was due to meet an Inkatha delegation, headed by Dr Frank Mdlalose, in Cape Town today to discuss the allegations.

Dr Buthelezi said Sunday's 'hideous' toll of 17 dead 'was a clear statement that ... the police and army ... were not keeping peace.'

He said there was 'incontrovertible evidence, backed with sworn statements, that

black members of the SADF in the area were loudly denigrating (me) as Chief Minister of KwaZulu and president of the IFP, and were publicly threatening to kill me if I set foot in Alexandra'.

'Some SADF members ... were publicly declaring that they were supporters of the ANC and intended "dealing with the IFP"', he said.

'The presence of police and troops in Alexandra had in fact prevented even greater bloodshed,' said Capt Kotze.

'The killings are therefore not a reflection of the attitude or capability of the policemen

and troops to quell the unrest, but a reflection on the culture of intolerance which seems to have taken root in Alexandra and other townships.

'The real culprit is the belief that differences can be settled by an assegai or a petrol bomb ... faced with this volatile climate of intolerance any police force in the world would be hard put to stop such violence.'

'If people wish to kill each other en masse, virtually nothing will stop them.'

He urged that credible evidence of misconduct or partiality be provided.

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Inkatha leader claims SADF and police harassment

INKATHA Freedom Party Transvaal leader, Mr Themba Khoza, has written a letter to the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, claiming that certain black members of the South African Defence Force and South African Police in Alexandra were attacking and harassing Inkatha members.

Political Reporter

Mr Khoza also claimed that the security forces had openly discriminated Inkatha president Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi and threatened to kill him should he set his foot in the troubled Johannesburg township.

He further alleged that SADF and SAP members

had openly declared support for the ANC.

'We believe this behaviour is totally unacceptable and can only exacerbate present tensions. We want these people removed,' he said in the letter.

Mr Khoza requested that Mr Vlok investigate

the allegations. He said he could provide witnesses who could substantiate facts of attacks and identify the SADF members concerned.

In the letter Mr Khoza supplied details of several incidents in which he said SADF and SAP members assaulted and destroyed property belonging to Inkatha supporters.

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Time to disclose

FOR AS long as the Government refuses to answer parliamentary questions on whether it gave financial or organisational assistance to Inkatha and/or other organisations, it will be regarded in the public mind as guilty.

A series of questions have been asked recently, by both the Democratic Party and the Conservative Party, to glean information which President de Klerk has refused to disclose. There is every reason to believe the questions have been asked with good reason, and that the Government's refusal to reply amounts to an admission that where there is smoke there is fire. Otherwise the Government would have denied it had given such assistance.

Continued silence is no solution for the Government. All it is doing is provoking further questions, which will continue to add to the Government's embarrassment until satisfactory answers are given.

It has long been the claim of the ANC, for instance, that the police have sided with Inkatha vigilantes in the township troubles of the past few years — a charge the police have tried to rebut by claiming political neutrality, even going to the extent of introducing internal police disciplinary rules to enforce neutrality, followed this session with legislation to underline it.

That claimed neutrality looks suspect if the Government refuses to say if it has supported Inkatha or other organisations in any way in the past. The Government's silence simply adds to fears that other practices, in addition to police hit squads and CCB military activities, have been allowed or fostered in the past to shape the political fabric to the Government's liking.

The row over police hit squads and the CCB has created a climate of suspicion which the Government must do its utmost to dispel, even if it means taking the remaining skeletons out of its cupboard. For as long as skeletons remain concealed, the danger remains that they will be discovered in future.

NIC and TIC decide to continue functioning

Mercury Reporter

THE Natal Indian Congress and its counterpart, the Transvaal Indian Congress, are to continue functioning, it was announced last night.

The decision to carry on was taken after a six-hour meeting of key officials of both organisations and of the African National Congress at the University of Durban-Westville yesterday.

A statement after the closed meeting said it was felt the NIC and TIC should continue to facilitate incorporation of the Indian community into the mainstream of the struggle for democracy and freedom as led by the ANC and

its allies.

The ANC delegation was headed by Mr Walter Sisulu who was accompanied by Mr Alfred Nzo, Mr Joe Slovo, Mr Thabo Mbeki, Mr Pallo Jordan and Mr Reggie September. The NIC delegation was headed by its president, Mr George Sewpersadh, and the TIC by its president, Mr Cassim Saloojee.

There were also wide ranging discussions on the concerns of the different communities in South Africa over the future.

ANC to get its Detroit Mandela rally money

By Simon Barber

WASHINGTON.—Detroit officials say they intend to send the more than \$1 000 000 (about R2 500 000) ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela raised in the city last June to the Kagiso Trust by the end of the month.

However, one of the trustees for the money, which is currently said to be sitting in a Detroit bank account, said he is still awaiting documentation from South Africa prov-

ing that the Kagiso Trust is a charitable organisation.

Mr Paul Hubbard, president of New Detroit Inc, who is acting as a trustee for the funds explained that the transfer had been held up because the city was afraid the money might be siphoned off by US groups.

Natal Mercury

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14 die as rival groups clash

For Chief Minister's information

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG—Alexandra was the scene of renewed blood-letting yesterday in events surrounding an Inkatha peace rally, while a hostel in central Johannesburg also became a battle zone.

Eight people died in Alexandra, one as a result of police action, while six people were killed in an attack on residents of the George Goch Hostel, near Jeppestown, police said.

The rally was called to address the violence which had claimed 48 lives during the past week and to mourn those who died, according to the IFP.

Alexandra Civic Organisation spokesman Obed Bapelela told Bapa that three Inkatha members on the way to the rally were hacked to death by about 100 African National Congress members, who had gathered near the stadium.

This could not be confirmed by police last night.

When they heard this news thousands of IFP members — reportedly brandishing knobkerries, clubs, pangas and metal spikes — tried repeatedly to break through a police and army cordon cutting them off from the rest of the township.

Although they were persuaded to return to the rally, organisers and police had great difficulty dispersing people when the meeting ended and armed, chanting

groups of IFP supporters tried to get to other parts of the township, but were forced back by heavily armed security forces.

An ANC application to hold a similar meeting on Saturday had been turned down — on the grounds that Alexandra had been declared an unrest area — which led to the Congress demanding that the Inkatha meeting yesterday be cancelled.

The IFP rally, however, was allowed to go ahead as it had received permission before the unrest area announcement.

Witwatersrand regional police commissioner Maj-Gen Gerrit Erasmus, who supervised S A P operations yesterday, said police had set up roadblocks, but because of the large number of buses and taxis streaming into the township, it had been impossible to search each one for dangerous weapons.

A Mercury reporter writes that the Central Committee of the Inkatha Freedom Party issued a statement last night deploring the violence which has broken out in Alexandra and the Port Shepstone area.

They called on 'everybody from all sides to trash their weapons and to talk, instead of maiming and killing'.

The IFP also reaffirmed its respect for ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela, and applauded the joint initiatives of the ANC and IFP in the Port Shepstone area.

*Katali Mavumbe
P1 Lead 18/3/91*