

# SA 'not eager to resume whaling'

*Citizen 7.6.96*

SENATE. — Reports that South Africa was eager to resume whaling were wrong, but it was only fair that the government should have a chance to review its whaling policy, Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers said yesterday.

Introducing his budget vote, he said it would be foolish of South Africa to reverse the situation in which all whales were fully protected in its coastal waters.

"South Africa will not take action that will threaten the well-being of this precious inheritance of ours."

The government was fully aware of the tremendous ecotourism potential that these creatures held.

However, it was only fair and natural that the government should have a chance to review its whaling policy in the light of the proposed new national fisheries policy handed to him a few days ago.

"One cannot review past policies rationally unless all relevant information and all possible policy options are given thought in a well-balanced manner by weighing up benefits and disadvantages to all the people of South Africa.

"Such a policy review will be the responsibility of my successor and any suggestion that policy changes have taken place is therefore factually incorrect." — Sapa.

## Ranchod rent 'misunderstood'

CAPE TOWN. — Former Deputy Speaker Dr Bhadra Ranchod said yesterday that the R42 000 arrears in rent on his official residence was due to a misunderstanding, and that he had never intended to avoid paying it.

Dr Ranchod, who arrived in Canberra at the weekend to take up his post as high commissioner

to Australasia, said he sent a fax yesterday morning to Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe offering to pay the outstanding amount.

Mr Radebe told the National Assembly on Wednesday that Dr Ranchod was one of several MPs who had been sent letters of demand over arrears. Dr Ranchod's had built up over eight months, he said.

Dr Ranchod said ordinary MPs living in state-owned homes paid only half the market rental.

He, along with some other senior parliamentary office bearers, had asked if he could be charged only half the R3 000 market-related rental on his official residence in Rondebosch.

The department had not responded, had accepted his regular pay-

ments of R1 500 a month, and had sent him no statements until the demand early last month.

"The matter was then discussed at a senior level, and I was advised by an official at Public Works that the issue had been settled. I would not have left an amount outstanding," he said.

"At no time did I ever intend avoiding payment." — Sapa.

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*The Citizen*

Friday 7 June 1996

## Call for joint action to promote tourism

SENATE. — It was important for Southern African countries to package their tourism product jointly, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister, Dr Dawie de Villiers, said yesterday.

Southern African countries had a far better chance of competing internationally if they co-operated and marketed their key attractions jointly, he said in his budget debate in the Senate.

Currently countries on the sub-continent were conducting their

marketing and promotions largely independently.

No cohesive and clear image was being projected to the international marketplace and tourists were often forced to buy their Southern African experience in fragmented bits and pieces.

"We must bear in mind that many other countries are also aiming at attracting the very same customers we would like to draw to South Africa."

Australia, Brazil and Malaysia were spending

between three and six times more on promoting their product than South Africa.

"To hold our own against these competitors we will have to overcome many problems the industry is experiencing."

The White Paper on Tourism had been approved by the cabinet and would be tabled in Parliament soon.

It highlighted a number of challenges that needed to be addressed to ignite the engine of tourism, Dr De Villiers said. — Sapa.

# Big reward for Abiola's wife's killers

LAGOS. — Nigeria police, under pressure to find the killers of the wife of a detained millionaire politician, yesterday offered a reward worth 20 times the average annual wage for information on the murder.

"A reward of one million naira (R52 000) has been offered to anybody who could offer any information that will lead to the arrest of the suspects of this heinous crime," police spokesman Tunji Alapini said in a statement.

Pro-democracy and opposition groups allege the military government was behind the death of Kudirat Abiola, the senior wife of detained presidential claimant Moshood Abiola, who was shot in the head on Tuesday while driving on a Lagos street.

Western nations have called for the culprits to be found and brought to book.

Mrs Abiola, who had campaigned for validation of the results of the 1993 presidential poll which her husband is believed to have won, was buried at the family home on Wednesday amid much wailing and anger from Mr Abiola's political supporters.

The police statement said Nigeria's most senior detective was heading the investigation into the murder which has sent political shockwaves

through the volatile African nation.

"Archibong Nkana is our best man and he is leading the investigation which is already in full swing," said one officer.

Mr Nkana is deputy inspector-general of police in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Intelligence at Alagbon Close in Lagos, the Nigerian equivalent of Scotland Yard.

The police offer compares with a 50 000 naira (R10 000) reward posted two years ago for information on Mr Abiola when he secretly proclaimed himself president and then disappeared.

No one got the reward as Mr Abiola re-emerged two weeks later and was arrested and has since been held in the capital Abuja.

While he was in detention, Mrs Abiola had pursued his claim to the presidency, calling at every opportunity for his release.

Her eldest daughter Hafsah, a 20-year-old law student in the United States, vowed in a television interview there to take up her mother's struggle.

General Sani Abacha has sent a letter of condolence to the Abiola family.

"It is with great shock and a deep sense of loss, but with total submission to the will of Allah, that I received the sad news of the tragic death of Kudirat Abiola," Gen Abacha

says in the letter.

Gen Abacha blamed "armed bandits" for the killing.

The Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People's Johannesburg office has called for the immediate isolation of Gen Abacha's government.

"Mrs Abiola's murder is clearly part of the brutal campaign by the military junta to eliminate Nigerian pro-democracy activists and silence its critics," said Mosop spokesman Willie Nwiido. — Reuter-Sapa.

Recent campaign for her husband's release in this September 1995 file photo. Mrs Abiola, the wife of imprisoned opposition leader Moshood Abiola, was shot at close range by six gunmen while travelling in her car. She died of head wounds two hours later, as did her chauffeur.

## Easy to suspect govt in Abiola murder: HRC

IT was easy to suspect the Nigerian military government of involvement in the murder of Kudirat Abiola, wife of detained Nigerian presidential claimant Moshood Abiola, the Human Rights Commission said yesterday.

"After all, Mrs Abiola was a well-known critic of the military regime and continued to carry the struggle associated with her husband at home and abroad," the HRC said in a statement in Pretoria.

"It is difficult to understand how such a prominent public figure, under constant surveillance from intelligence agencies, could meet her death in such a public manner without the authorities knowing about it.

"We regard her murder

as an extra-judicial execution."

Mrs Abiola was shot in the head at close range while driving along a Lagos street on Tuesday. Nigeria's military ruler General Sani Abacha has blamed the assassination on armed bandits.

The HRC said the Ni-

gerian Government, by its continued undemocratic governance, had to take responsibility for her death.

"They now have a responsibility to release Chief Abiola from prison and to restore democratic order," the HRC said. — Sapa.

# Nigerian shot dead in Hillbrow: R2m coke seized

POLICE yesterday shot an unidentified Nigerian man dead and seized cocaine and heroin they claimed had a street value of more than R2 million.

Police spokesman Inspector Mark Reynolds said police went to a block of flats in Hillbrow on the corners of Fife and Olivia streets to investigate reports of drug smuggling and racketeering.

When they arrived at a flat on the 15th-floor they found R18 000 worth of cocaine and a small amount of heroin

as well as a suitcase filled with "black dollars", that were being used in a counterfeit money scam.

A suspect in the flat escaped, and police followed him to the 10th floor. Numerous warnings were shouted, but a police officer finally fired a shot which hit the suspect in the back, said Insp Reynolds.

Paramedics were called but could not save the suspect.

Shortly afterwards, a

group of Nigerian men congregated on the 10th floor and demanded to see the officer who shot the man.

One of the group was subsequently arrested, and after the group dispersed shots were heard from the 11th floor.

Police searching for the gunmen discovered about six kilograms of cocaine with a street value of about R2 million in a flat on the 14th floor. Insp Reynolds said.

After the shooting armed police stood guard at the building's entrance, keeping an angry crowd of hundreds at bay.

About 20 Nigerians who stoned and damaged parked cars said they were constantly harassed by police, despite being legal residents and having bona fide jobs.

"A couple of weeks ago police driving a car with the plate (registration plate) BHL127B came to my flat, beat me up and stole my money and sunglasses," said one Nigerian who asked not to be named.

"I filed a report (with Hillbrow police) but nothing has happened," he said.

Another Nigerian, Laurence Ifo, said he had also been harassed by police. "They came to my flat, looked around but never told me what they were looking for," he said.

"Corruption is not acceptable to the police service and if these allegations are found to be true, members will be prosecuted in a court of law," Insp Reynolds said.

He said the Hillbrow area was notorious for drug peddling and crime. Police would step up efforts in the seedy nightclub district.

Nigerian businessman Harry James said it was a convenient excuse for police to pick on immigrants, and for police to pad their pockets. — Sapa.

## Refugees in clutches of fraud syndicate

### Court Reporter

ACCORDING to evidence in the Johannesburg Regional Court, politically dissatisfied Pakistanis were approached by "sponsors" who offered relocation to South Africa, political refugee status, gainful employment and the opportunity to return home should the current Pakistani Government lose power.

But unknown to the refugees they were in the clutches of a syndicate masterminded by foreigners.

The syndicate eased the Pakistanis from ordinary South African jobs to telecommunication line operators in their 18-month trunk call scam, which reportedly cost Telkom South Africa R800 million.

The agreement was that the refugees had to work for at least one year for the "sponsors", remuneration being food, accommodation and R50 a day.

These facts were revealed at the individual

trials in the same court of four Pakistanis, Jaafiq-ur-Rehman Bhatti, Murtaz Achmed, Sajid Mamood and Shahid Sheik, and an Indian national, Bashir Patel.

Prosecutor Mr R Krause accepted "guilty as accomplice to fraud" pleas tendered on their behalf by Krugersdorp attorney Mr Chris Erasmus.

Charges were withdrawn against a further eight alleged syndicate employees.

The court accepted that the accused had been "unfortunate tools in the hands of the perpetrators" and fined each R3 000 (or 12 months' imprisonment) with a further 18 conditionally suspended.

Each of the guilty accused were involved for only a short while as temporary "call centres" before being arrested.

Bhatti was involved with "stolen" trunk calls totalling R88 000.

Achmed to the extent of R80 333, R32 378 for Mamood, Patel R56 325 and R128 151 in respect of Sheik.

Evidence in mitigation of sentence led by Mr Erasmus was similar for all accused.

For example, Bhatti originally sold goods from Pakistan and India at flea-markets in Sandton, Randburg and Hillbrow.

From November 18 1995 his pay was increased to R65 daily and he was placed in a flat in Kotze Street, Hillbrow, Johannesburg as "telephone operator monitoring calls to and from Pakistan".

The syndicate's modus operandi was for Bhatti (and the others) to phone a number in Pakistan where a number for America, Australia, Europe etc was provided.

"I would then have to use a second telephone to dial the number provided. Once telecommunication was established I had to affix a patch-cord between the telephone lines with the Pakistani call and the second phone."

This "conference facility" enabled discussions between the two persons on the two different phone lines.

# SABC considers more changes

Mail & Guardian 7.6.96

Jacquie Golding-Duffy

**M**OST of the SABC's current affairs programmes may be scrapped to accommodate African-language viewers.

SABC television analyst Don Seokane said the decision to reduce the corporation's eight current affairs programmes was not yet finalised, but the management of Television News had attended a *bosberaad* last month where proposals on repositioning the corporation's news department were garnered.

Television News management, he said, was only at this stage "considering increasing the time allocated for news bulletins and reducing the number of *Focus* programmes".

This means news bulletins could be accompanied by packaged current affairs programmes of between 15 and 30 minutes long, in the lan-

guage used during the news bulletin.

"Current affairs programmes are predominantly in English and management, in reassessing the situation, felt African-language groups should be accommodated. It was proposed that extra time be latched on to African-language bulletins, allowing for a current affairs programme to occur in any of the indigenous languages," Seokane said.

The *bosberaad* involved all the regional news heads, heads of the various sections, including current affairs, and Television News editor-in-chief Joe Thloloe.

Seokane said it was believed that the various news sections could be more "effective", and the proposal arose from concerns that current affairs programmes in particular may not be complying with the language requirements stipulated by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

A meeting between Television News management and channel heads was planned this week to gather more proposals and discuss the feasibility of attaching packaged current affairs programmes to news slots, he added.

"The length of the current affairs programmes depend on the air time allocated on each channel, but nothing in this regard has been finalised. It is still in the process of discussion and is a mere proposal."

Although the SABC is adamant that the proposal is based around accommodating South Africa's 11 languages, some sources within the corporation argue that this is a cost-cutting exercise, an effort to increase audience ratings and a bid to attract more advertising revenue around its flagship programmes.

Bid for advertisers, PAGE B6

## Goodwill Zwelithini: King on the run?

Mail & Guardian 7.6.96 PHOTO: DAVE BUZZAND

# Is king hiding in Swaziland?

## Babazile Magongo

**K**ING Goodwill Zwelithini has spent most of the past month in Swaziland, staying in royal accommodation.

His stay in Swaziland is said by government sources in Mbabane to be semi-permanent because he fears for his life in KwaZulu-Natal.

The king entered Swaziland secretly on May 10 in his black limousine and settled at the Manzana guest house near Lobamba, where Swazi King Mswati III hosts important guests.

He entered Swaziland after one of his wives, Queen Buhle KaMathe, and one of his daughters, Princess Sibusile, were attacked in his Kwa-Mashu home near Durban in April.

From the first day of his visit, no official would talk openly about his visit for "security reasons". He is reported to be under tight security and has been seen rarely in public since his arrival in Swaziland.

Zwelithini is Mswati III's brother-in-law and he was among the guests who attended the Swazi king's wedding on the weekend of May 31 to his sixth wife.

Zwelithini's spokesman, Prince Sifiso Zulu, this week denied the king was hiding in Swaziland. He said the king had only gone there to attend the royal wedding.

**T**HE CYNICISM in the sadness expressed by the generals who rule Nigeria over the death of Mrs Kudirat Abiola is overshadowed only by their disregard for human rights.

When they hanged writer Ken Saro-Wiwa these military dictators showed a singular lack of human decency. They were callous murderers who showed no repentance for hanging the writer.

After Kudirat Abiola's death, military leader General Sani Abacha sent a letter of condolence expressing his government's "great shock" at the news of the assassination.

Most people would consider such commiseration hypocritical as the Abacha regime has kept a close security watch on Mrs Abiola.

Many Nigerians thus believe the government is behind the assassination. It is not too difficult to support this view. Nigerians must become serious in their mobilisation to get rid of this regime. The international community has to condemn the Nigerian military rulers.

## KOTANE, cont.

"The government has an obligation to establish something to help deliver information to its constituency," he says. "I appreciate the role

played by the newspapers and Sapa [the South African Press Association, an independent national agency]. But is that enough?"

Unlike many who bang the empowerment drum, he sounds almost apologetic about raising the question of race, and his criticisms of the shortcomings of existing media could not be more diplomatic: "In the 60 years of Sapa's existence, the majority voice never had a platform. I am not lumping the blame on Sapa — the regime of the day did not want to encourage a diversity of opinion."

**K**otane's vision is of a news agency which can reach into the remotest village and the most miserable squatter camp in the country, and come back with the stories. And if no one else is going to do this, then the government can and the government will.

Kotane declares the agency will enjoy editorial autonomy and will even carry articles critical of the government — a notion which has been greeted with scepticism by observers of the history of any number of other well-intentioned schemes in Africa.

Kotane is bullish about the agency's chances of success in an environment very different from countries like Zimbabwe where state-owned newspapers are a captive market for a state-owned news agency. He would like to see the large papers subscribe to a government service, but if they don't, then he is confident that

mostly rural community papers will jump at the chance of news that is not filtered through the big city press.

Some have accused Kotane of being an empire-builder, citing the pin-up portrait in *RDP News*, and Kotane's brief but amply rewarded spell as head of Bophuthatswana Broadcasting which began with no prior broadcasting experience, and ended after little more than a year with a retrenchment package of around R100 000. This incident is one which Kotane explains away without embarrassment: he says he was entitled to R500 000, but thought it would not be appropriate.

He unblinkingly refutes the idea that the proposed news agency will continue to swallow taxpayers' money until the end of time: if it has served its purpose after a decade, then let it be disbanded, he says.

Victor Moche, who worked with Kotane in the DIP, describes him as "not ambitious, but tenacious — sometimes to a frustrating level. When he bites into something he has to be prised off."

Talking to Kotane, it is clear that it will take a lot to prise him away from his plans for a government news agency. He acknowledges that the future of government communications policy is still a matter for discussion, but the enthusiasm with which he talks about the agency plan makes it quite clear where his intentions lie — never mind the costs to the taxpayer, and the fears that a state news agency will inevitably become a propaganda tool.

# The man behind SA's proposed news agency

Can the chief of the government's new communication service fulfil his mandate? **Justin Pearce** investigates

Everyone is entitled to 15 minutes of fame, Sol Kotane's quarter-hour struck when his photograph was splashed across a full page in *RDP News*, in the illustrious company of Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki, and FW de Klerk.

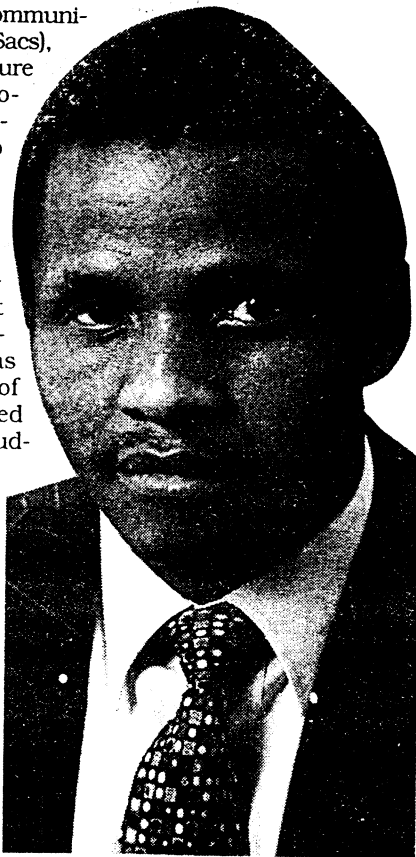
Together they made up a pull-out centrefold, with such captions as "The leader of the nation and the architect of the RDP" for Mandela; "Leading the Sacs in communicating the RDP" for Kotane; and "Close to the heartthrob of the RDP" for De Klerk.

Sol Kotane, head of the South African Communications Service (Sacs), has become a figure of major controversy after championing plans to establish a government-funded news agency.

Last weekend, *Sunday Independent* columnist Zakes Mda described the idea as "the mother of all hare-brained schemes", concluding: "The government needs to communicate, but a government-controlled news agency is neither viable nor desirable in South Africa."

For a man who is often dismissed as a wannabe propagandist, Kotane appears engagingly frank as he replies to the battering he has received in the media. He seems embarrassed that the *RDP News* — published by Sacs — had, with the photos, stepped into what one seasoned hack described as the "Ho Chi Minh school of journalism" rather than sticking to its brief of reporting on the development of the government.

"From a journalistic point of view I don't think it was in good taste to do that, especially to include my photograph," Kotane admits, adding that *RDP News* is produced by a team and it was not his decision to run the large photos.



**Sol Kotane: He views news as a service and not as a means of control**

Kotane's background can only add to fears that his news agency plans are a way of using taxpayers' money to trumpet the glories of the government. Most of Kotane's media education took place under the auspices of the Department of Information and Publicity (DIP) of the ANC in exile, where former colleagues say he did not hold a particularly senior position.

His active experience in the print media consists of a spell as a junior on the *Bulawayo Chronicle*, a faithful follower of the Mugabe regime, and at the Pan-African News Agency (Pana) which is funded by the Organisation of African Unity and which operates spasmodically. Pana's failure has been blamed on its inability to offer a voice independent from the outpourings of state-controlled agencies across the continent.

Suspensions about Kotane's intentions deepened when, while explaining

his proposals to Parliament's Select Committee on Communications, he praised the partisan Zimbabwean government news agency, Ziana.

Kotane insists he was quoted out of context on Ziana — it was only one example among several that he cited, he says. And his long association with the ANC translates not into a conviction that the regime will always do right, but into a blind faith that the government's commitment to freedom of expression will never falter.

"Looking at the position of the government, what I see is support for freedom of expression — not the muzzling of opinions."

Not only will government continue to allow other media a free rein, he believes, but government can succeed where the commercial press failed in mirroring South Africa to itself.

He pre-empted suspicions of a hidden agenda by taking an old-school liberal view of the media. News, in Kotane's view, is not a means of control — it is a service.

PTO

# Zim attacks SA on trade policies

Some Zimbabweans claim President Nelson Mandela is doing more to hurt them now than apartheid ever did, reports **Brian Latham** from Harare

**R**ELATIONS between South Africa and the rest of the region are at their worst since the end of apartheid.

When South African Trade Minister Alec Erwin visits Zimbabwe this week, he will be astonished at the level of anger which meets him over South African tariffs and subsidies which have left the region devastated by unfair trade practices.

South Africa's economy is 20 times bigger than Zimbabwe's, but prior to South Africa's inclusion in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Zimbabwe accounted for more than 50 percent of gross domestic product in the region.

Many businesspeople in the region feel South Africa should

decide whether it belongs to the SADC or the South African Customs Union (Sacu), saying that membership of both allows South Africa to move the goalposts.

John Robertson, a leading economist in Zimbabwe, claims that South Africa is a victim of its own history. "Sacu is very expensive for South Africa," he said. "Customs duty payments are shared within Sacu, but these could never be extended to a country like Zimbabwe. It was a sort of political buying off of Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho during the apartheid years, the need for which has gone." He added that disbanding Sacu requires the assent of all members, making South Africa's position difficult.

South Africa has imposed import tariffs of between 60 and 90% on many countries in the region — and a deposit tariff of 125% on goods in transit. The World Trade Organisation (WTO), which recommends tariffs of no more than 35%, has given South Africa a moratorium on bringing import duties down which lasts well into the next century. But else-

where in the region, manufacturers argue South Africa's high import duties were deviously imposed just before South Africa joined the WTO. "They may have done this so that they could negotiate down," said Robertson.

The dispute is further complicated by South African subsidies for manufactured exports, a measure brought in by the previous administration in its fight against sanctions. The subsidy allows, for instance, South Africa to sell car batteries in Zimbabwe and Zambia at a price well below their production price in those countries.

**A**s a part of their economic reforms, most countries in the region have removed all producer subsidies. This is despite levels of productivity in South Africa being well below Zimbabwe and, in certain sectors, below even Tanzania and Kenya.

Elsewhere within the SADC, governments and business alike accuse South Africa of pandering to both its trade organisations and its militant trade unions who fear competition

and job losses. South Africa counters that its fight is not against imported goods from the SADC alone, but also from the Far East. South African officials allege that Zimbabwe has been used as a conduit for cheap textiles from China, dressed up as Zimbabwean clothing.

Accusing South Africa of economic imperialism, manufacturers in the SADC say that it is unfair to penalise the region simply because South Africa is unable to police its civil servants.

Mark O'Donnell, chairman of the Zambian Association of Manufacturers, says that South Africa has again gone into the laager. "They would like to control the region," he claims, adding that his country's 13-to-one trade imbalance is worsening by the month.

Appearances appear to back him up. At the Shoprite supermarket on Lusaka's Cairo Road, even the milk is from South Africa — and the Spur restaurant flies in meat from Johannesburg. On the street, hundreds of hungry vendors sell cheap products as diverse as toys and perfume — often labelled in Afrikaans.

The region remains divided on how to tackle South Africa's devastating push into Africa, with many countries seemingly willing to let South Africa and Zimbabwe battle it out.

Zambia would prefer its own dispensation with the southern giant. "We cannot sustain the imbalance," said O'Donnell, "but our position is not the same as Zimbabwe's. Our impact on the South African economy would be negligible even if the tariffs were removed, whereas Zimbabwe could have a significant impact."

But there is another issue and it is charged with emotion. The countries worst affected by South African protectionism are all former "franchise" states, countries which suffered, to a greater or lesser degree, the ravages of destabilisation and the torment brought about by helping and providing shelter to those who now rule South Africa.

O'Donnell says Zimbabweans are hurt by their exclusion — and Zimbabweans say Mandela is doing more harm to their economy than apartheid ever did.

## Mandela puts off Angola visit

*not sure if June 11th*  
President Mandela yesterday cancelled a planned state visit to Angola because of the "internal situation" there, presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlana said. Mandela hoped to reschedule the visit, planned for June 11 to 13, "as soon as possible", but could not say whether it would take place this year, Mankahlana said.

## Visit postponed

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela has postponed a scheduled state visit to Angola for the second time following Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' decision to dismiss his cabinet earlier this week. *13/6/96*

## Mandela stel Angola-besoek 2de keer uit

*Beeld 7.6.96*  
KAAPSTAD. - Pres. Nelson Mandela het gister vir die tweede keer vanjaar 'n amptelike besoek aan Angola uitgestel.

Die eerste keer was dit oor 'n mediese ondersoek en nou is dit oor probleme in die Angolese regering.

Pres. Mandela, wat aanstaande week vir 'n kort besoek na Angola sou vertrek, het gisteroggend 'n versoek vir die uitstel van die besoek aan sy Angolese amptenoot, pres. José Eduardo dos Santos, gestuur. Die Minister van Buitelandse Sake, mnr. Alfred Nzo, gaan Maandag 'n

persoonlike boodskap van pres. Mandela aan pres. Dos Santos in Luanda oordra.

Dit volg op die afdanking deur die Angolese staatshoof vandeewee van sy kabinet. Hy het 'n nuwe eerste minister, mnr. Fernando Franca, versoek om weer een saam te stel.

'n Woordvoerder van pres. Mandela, mnr. Parks Mankahlana, het aan Sapa gesê die president meen dit sal onvanpas wees om 'n staatsbesoek op pres. Dos Santos af te dwing op 'n tyd wat hy 'n oorgang in sy regering moet hanteer.

## Special patrol for embassies

A special police patrol has been set up to protect embassies following three burglaries in the past six months. Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi said there had been a burglary at the Swiss embassy in Claremont, Cape Town, during which valuables including a string of pearls and two pairs of earrings were stolen. In break-ins at the Lebanese embassy in Norwood, Johannesburg, burglars netted goods and cash totalling more than R200 000. - Own Correspondent.

## Burglaries at two embassies

SENATE. - Three burglaries at foreign embassies in South Africa had been reported since the beginning of the year, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said yesterday.

Valuables totalling more than R176 000 had been stolen, R3 610 from the Swiss Embassy in Claremont in the Western Cape and two from the Lebanese Embassy in Norwood, Johannesburg in which goods stolen were valued at R50 000, and R122 468,26, he said in reply to Mark Wiley (NP).

There had been no arrests. - Sapa.

*the current 7 June 96*





The casket of Kudirat Abiola is carried through the crowd to its last resting place in the family compound in Lagos, Nigerian, on Wednesday. Abiola, the wife of imprisoned opposition party leader Moshood K Abiola, was shot dead at close range by six gunmen on Tuesday when travelling in her car. She died of head wounds hours afterwards, as did her chauffeur.

PIC: AP

# Dictator Abacha blames 'bandits'

**N**IGERIAN MILITARY DICTATOR General Sani Abacha has sent a letter of condolence to the family of slain opposition activist Kudirat Abiola, who was killed by gunmen who fired on her car in Lagos on Tuesday.

"It is with great shock and a deep sense of loss, but with total submission to the will of Allah, that I received the sad news of the tragic death of Kudirat Abiola," Abacha says in the letter, a copy of which was sent to *Sapa* by the Nigerian embassy in Washington.

She was buried on Wednesday amid anti-Abacha protest.

Abacha blamed "armed bandits" for the killing.

The Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People's Johannesburg office yesterday called for the immediate

## Opposition in Jo'burg calls for isolation of the military regime

isolation of Abacha's government.

"Mrs Abiola's murder is clearly part of the brutal campaign by the military junta to eliminate Nigerian pro-democracy activists and silence its critics," said Mosop spokesman Willie Nwiido.

### Successful coup

Abacha carried out a successful coup on November 17, 1993, and jailed for treason Abiola's husband Mosood Abiola, who won the June 1993 presidential election. Kudirat Abiola (44) was prominent in the campaign for her husband's release.

Late last year Abacha ordered the

execution of minority rights activist Ken Saro Wiwa and eight other activists, spurring an international outcry.

President Nelson Mandela this week joined other heads of state in expressing shock over Abiola's death.

In his letter to the Abiola family, Abacha extolled the virtues of Kudirat Abiola as a "mother, motivator and a counsellor" and said "her demise at this epoch of our political development is therefore not only a loss to you but to the nation as a whole".

Lawyers for Human Rights said: "Abacha's stated commitment to return to civilian rule should be viewed with scepticism." — *Sapa*.

# Arab leaders to discuss M-E peace process

DAMASCUS. — Syrian President Hafez al-Assad and leaders of Egypt and Saudi Arabia will hold talks in Damascus today on the Middle East peace process, officials said yesterday.

Syrian officials said Egyptain President Hosni Mubarak and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah — in the place of King Fahd who is in poor health — will discuss "how to form a united Arab front" after the win in Israel of Benjamin Netanyahu, who says he opposes trading occupied Arab land for peace.

The meeting would be the latest in a series of top-level sessions among Arab leaders since the election last week of Mr Netanyahu, who heads the Right-wing Likud party.

"Arabs are now in bad need for solidarity and unity to confront Israel's

anti-peace intentions, especially after the victory of the extremists in the Israeli elections," a Syrian official said.

In Cairo, Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said the three leaders would discuss recommendations and proposals made by their foreign ministers who met in Riyadh this week to discuss the impact of Mr

Netanyahu's election on the peace process.

There was no immediate comment from Saudi Arabia, which earlier yesterday denied the summit would be held in the kingdom.

Mr Moussa said the meeting aimed to "study the Arab situation, bring Arab states together and support the peace process."

Jordan's King Hussein, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and President Mubarak on Wednesday held talks in the Red Sea port of Aqaba, where they urged Mr Netanyahu to stick to a peace process based on exchanging land for peace with the Arabs.

Outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres supported the land-for-

*Citizen 7-6-96*

## Let's build faith, urges Netanyahu

HAIFA, Israel. — After a confrontation with Yasser Arafat over Palestinian statehood, Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu called for a timeout in the rhetoric yesterday.

However, Mr Netanyahu was evasive when asked whether he would meet with the Palestinian leader, saying only that he was ready to negotiate a permanent peace agreement with the Palestinians.

"We will negotiate the permanent arrangement, and I suggest we stop making statements and start taking steps to build faith rather than break faith," Mr Netanyahu said at a news conference in the northern port city of Haifa.

In his first wide-ranging news conference since winning the May 29 elections, Mr Netanyahu said he might ask the Labour Party of defeated Prime Minister Shimon Peres to join his government.

However, such an offer would only be made once the basic guidelines for government policy have been written, he said.

An alliance of the dovish Labour and Mr

Netanyahu's Right-wing Likud Party might ease concerns by the West and the Arab world about the future of Mideast peacemaking.

During the campaign, Mr Netanyahu had espoused tough positions, saying he would block the creation of a Palestinian state, expand Jewish settlements and never share sovereignty in Jerusalem.

In a statement directed at Mr Netanyahu on

Wednesday, Pres Arafat said statehood "is the desire of the Palestinian people and nobody can stop it".

In a quick response, Mr Netanyahu said his "position opposing the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital is known".

Mr Netanyahu said yesterday that he hadn't changed his views, but that such exchanges were not conducive to peacemaking. — Sapa-AP.

# Israel's diplomatic offensive ignores Arafat, PLO

JERUSALEM. — Israeli prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu has waged a diplomatic offensive to reassure Arab states of his commitment to the Middle East peace process, but has openly snubbed the leader closest to home, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Since his election last week and even before forming his government, Mr Netanyahu has multiplied direct and indirect contacts with foreign leaders alarmed by the defeat at the polls of Shimon Peres, architect of the peace process.

Mr Netanyahu notably spoke by telephone with King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, the two Arab states which have signed peace agreements with Israel.

The Right-wing leader, who is engaged in intense negotiations on forming a coalition government, also took time out to meet twice this week with Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassuni and is expected to make one of

his first foreign visits to Cairo in June or July.

But he has also been in touch with Arab states which have only begun developing relations with Israel, notably Gulf emirates who hold a key to Israeli trade growth in the region.

He spoke with Sultan Qaboos of Oman, the current head of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and telephoned Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad bin Jasssem ibn Jabr al-Khalifa to stress "that he will act to pursue the Middle East peace process".

Israeli public radio reported yesterday that Mr Netanyahu had also been in contact with Morocco and Mauritania.

In contrast, Mr Netanyahu has sought no direct contact with Pres Arafat, who he has avoided mentioning by name since his election.

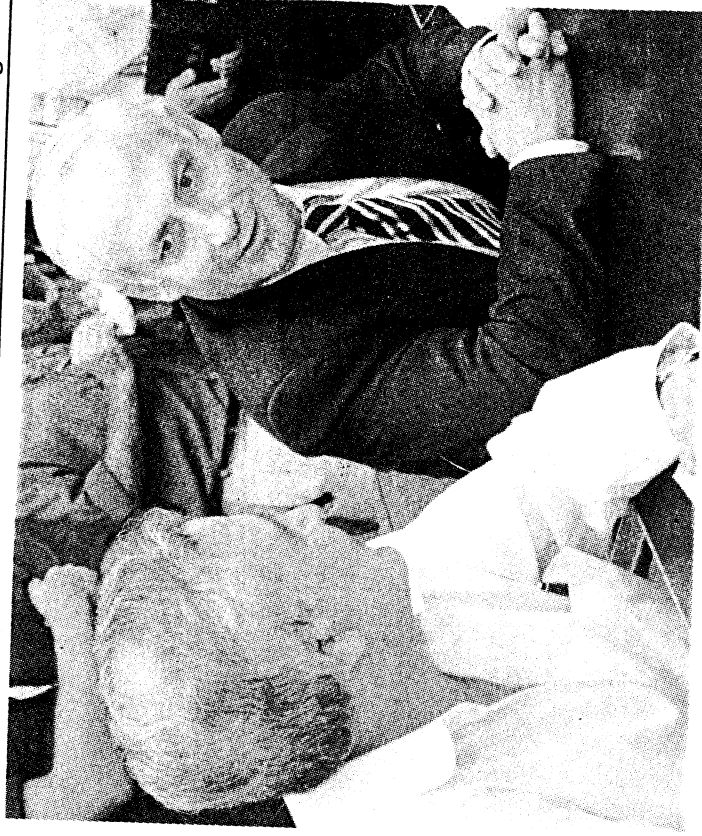
He has also publicly

ignored the Palestine Liberation Organisation with which Israel signed the Oslo peace accords and must negotiate a permanent peace settlement for the Palestinian territories.

When Pres Arafat declared his intention to proclaim the creation of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, Mr Netanyahu responded with a brief written statement.

The low-key communiqué gave Pres Arafat no title — he is the elected president of the Palestinian self-rule authority and PLO chairman — and simply stated that the prime minister-elect "views differently" the future of the holy city and the Palestinian territories.

— Mr Netanyahu said yesterday he envisioned an alternative peace track with Syria that would circumvent stalled talks on the future of the Golan Heights.



ISRAELI Prime Minister-elect BENJAMIN NETANYAHU (right), speaks to Likud coalition negotiator MOSHE KATSAV at the Knesset in Jerusalem. Senior Likud members are suggesting that Mr Netanyahu should bring in the defeated Labour Party into his government.

Sowetan 7 June 1996

# A very troubled state

**L**AGOS — THE SLAIN WIFE of jailed opposition leader Chief Moshood Abiola was buried on Wednesday after police broke up protests against her murder and amid international pressure on Nigeria.

Some mourners chanted anti-government slogans, demanding that the military regime of General Sani Abacha act swiftly to arrest the "armed bandits" said to have killed Kudirat Abiola (44).

She had been an outspoken advocate for the release of her millionaire husband, jailed on treason charges after he claimed to be the real winner of Nigeria's last presidential elections on June 12 1993.

"Adieu Kudirat Abiola. June 12 will not die," read a placard carried by university students in academic gowns who attended the burial, which was conducted according to Muslim rites.

They also sang in Yoruba, the language of Abiola's birthplace in southwestern Nigeria: "Those who have killed Kudirat in her prime, have murdered sleep. They and their offspring will know no rest and they will soon be visited by the god of lightning."

In the presence of about 15 ambassadors and other diplomats, including those of the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany and South Africa, the students forced another Nigerian millionaire, Alhaji Wahab Folawiyo, to quit the venue before the burial ceremony got under way. They accused him of being too pro-government.

## Original anthem

As the ceremony began, the students led the crowd in singing the nation's original post-independence national anthem, which was discarded more than 10 years ago.

The burial was completed without incident and without visible police presence around Abiola's vast residential quarters in the Ikeja district of Lagos.

But earlier police made several arrests when they broke up a protest by thousands of students in Ibadan.

Police bolstered security measures in the city and blocked access to the headquarters of Oyo state military governor Colonel Ike Nwosu, where the protest march was headed, witnesses said.

The protesters chanted slogans critical of the military regime and demanded the release of Moshood Abiola and acceptance of the 1993 presidential election results.

The crowd dispersed without clashing with the police but several people, believed to be organisers of the march, were arrested.

Meanwhile, a delegation of government ministers and high ranking officers from the

The assassination and funeral of detained Nigerian leader Moshood Abiola's wife Kudirat has renewed international criticism of and pressure on dictator Sani Abacha's military junta...



**Flashback ...**  
Kudirat Abiola during a campaign for the release of her husband Moshood in September 1995. She was shot at close range by six gunmen on Tuesday morning.

PIC: AP

military junta, led by army chief of staff General Ishaya Bamaayi, presented its condolences to the Abiola family.

Bamaayi handed over a letter from Abacha expressing "great shock and deep sense of loss" at the news of the killing. He promised to do all he could to clarify the "mysterious" circumstances of her death.

Abiola's violent death sent shock waves across the country and was condemned in Nigeria and abroad.

A minority movement whose leaders were executed late last year called on Wednesday for the isolation of Abacha's regime.

Abiola's death "is clearly no coincidence and bears the hallmark of assassinations of other prominent pro-democracy activists," the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People said.

President Nelson Mandela said through a spokesman that he had "learned with shock of the heinous act". US state Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said: "The US deplores the killing."

## Reprehensible crime

"We urge the government of Nigeria to diligently pursue the killers and ensure that they are identified and duly prosecuted in an open court of law for this reprehensible crime."

In Ottawa, Canadian foreign minister Lloyd Axworthy expressed his "shock" at the murder, calling Abiola "a tireless campaigner for the liberation of her husband and for Nigerian democracy in general".

He also expressed concern at the "continued deterioration of the situation in Nigeria", whose membership of the Commonwealth was suspended after last year's executions.

France deplored the murder and called on Nigerian military authorities to shed maximum light on the crime. It also called for the release of Moshood Abiola and other political prisoners.

● The killing of Abiola was the latest in a series of murders of major opponents of Abacha's military regime.

## Murdered or injured

While her husband's trial — he is charged with treason — has been repeatedly postponed over legal technicalities, several other Nigerian opposition figures have either been murdered or seriously injured.

Others have had their homes or offices either burnt or damaged by unknown assailants.

Last October, gunmen burst into the bedroom of Chief Alfred Rewane, a major financial backer of the opposition National Democratic Coalition and shot him dead.

In February, Alex Ibru, the Abacha regime's former internal affairs minister and owner of the *Guardian Press* group, was shot and wounded as he returned home from his office.

He was known for his principled stand for justice and recognition of Abiola's claimed victory.

Navy Admiral Olugbenga Omotehinwa was fatally wounded by armed intruders at his home in May. The admiral, believed to be a friend of a prominent opposition figure in exile, died later in hospital.

Other pro-democracy activists and friends of Abiola, such as Chief Segun Osoba, the former civilian governor of Ogun state, and Ayo Opadokun, Nadeco's detained secretary-general, have either been assaulted or have had their homes attacked by gangs in the last two years. — *Sapa-AFP*.

# Angolan crisis: Mandela calls off visit

*THE GUARDIAN*

7 June 1996

**Gaye Davis**

**P**RESIDENT Nelson Mandela has called off his visit to Angola in the wake of President José Eduardo dos Santos's sacking of his Cabinet and the governor of the central bank.

Mandela was to have left South Africa on Tuesday for a largely symbolic visit, during which he would have addressed the Angolan Parliament. It was intended as a gesture of goodwill to send a signal that the United Nations-brokered peace process was working and to boost confidence in the region.

"The president sent a note to President Dos Santos this morning asking that the visit be rescheduled due to prevailing circumstances," said presidential spokesman Parks Man-kahlana.

"The president feels it would be inconsiderate to impose a state visit of this magnitude on the Angolan government while they were undergoing a period of transition."

In the letter Mandela assured Dos Santos of his full support in addressing the problems which had led to the dissolution of the government and said he was committed to ensuring the success of the peace process.

Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo will travel to Angola on Monday to convey a personal message to President Dos Santos from Mandela.

On Monday, Dos Santos axed prime minister Marcolino Moco and all his ministers and suspended the country's foreign exchange trade.

"He is getting rid of the people blamed for the economic crisis in the country," said Institute for International Affairs researcher Glenn Oosthuysen. "He could be making

them scapegoats, however. Angola is run by the military — the generals have their finger in every economic pie. Civil society doesn't really exist."

By presidential decree, Dos Santos named Fernando Franca van Dunem as the new prime minister. Van Dunem now has five days to form a new government, which is expected to make better headway in pushing through economic reforms.

Oosthuysen said he expected Unita would "make a meal of it" should the new government comprise only members of the ruling party, the MPLA, but said this would only be of rhetorical value. "It is too early to expect Unita to come into the government."



**Alfred Nzo: Planning to take over where Nelson Mandela left off**

A government of national unity, with key ministries for Unita, is due to be formed at some stage this year.

Unita leader Jonas Savimbi's troops were not yet demobilised and each side was accusing the other of rearming. It was unclear what progress had been made on the integration of the two forces, due to have begun on June 1.

## Out of Africa

■ IT'S not often that the *manne* in the bar agree with Alfred Nzo — but all that could change with the minister's elegy for the SABC's Channel Africa, which is soon to close. Nzo said Channel Africa "had played an important role in informing listeners about political and other developments in South Africa".

Oupa van Tonder, who remembers the days when Channel Africa gave all the good news about how our *manne* were keeping the communists out of Angola, can only concur.

**F**OREIGN Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo said the ministry will no longer fund the SABC's external service — Channel Africa.

The SABC said the station is expected to close in about two months. The corporation plans to conduct a government-sponsored feasibility study on developing a foreign radio broadcast to replace Channel Africa.

*MEDIA BRIEFING*

*THE GUARDIAN 7 June*

# Abiola's death won't change SA's policy

Stefaans Brümmer and Sapa-AFP

**T**HE apparent assassination of Kudiratu Abiola, activist wife of imprisoned Nigerian leader Chief Moshood Abiola, is unlikely to prompt South Africa to formulate a stronger policy against Nigeria's military government.

Abiola (44) died from a gunshot wound to the head in Lagos on Tuesday, the same day Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo publicly acknowledged South Africa had toned down its hardline stance on Nigeria in response to accusations by South Africa's partners on the continent that it was acting against African solidarity.

Nzo told Parliament's foreign affairs committee it was "important to go along with other countries", while "we have not retracted from our call for Nigeria to embark on democracy". This confirmed the view that President Nelson Mandela's call for sanctions against Nigeria, first made after the execution last year of Nigerian minority rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, had been dropped in favour of a softer common African position.

This week the African National Congress's labour partner, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, made a new call for sanctions — and South African high commissioner to Nigeria, George Nene, joined mourners at Abiola's funeral on Wednesday afternoon — but it seems unlikely Nzo's ministry will plot a new policy course for now.

A Foreign Affairs representative said: "We decided at a summit that we would work through the SADC [the Southern African Development Community]... I don't think that will change."

South Africa's deputy high commissioner to Nigeria, Jan van Jaarsveld, said members of the diplomatic corps doubted Nigerian dictator General Sani Abacha's statement that the attack on Kudiratu Abiola, her driver and her personal assistant, had been a robbery attempt.

He said: "Her car was forced from the road at a T-junction. People are talking about several shots from an automatic gun. But what raises suspicion is that she died of a single shot to the head."

Van Jaarsveld said the driver had died of several wounds, but the personal assistant, who was unscathed, had been arrested by the Nigerian police "to help with the investigation". He said this came across as a possible attempt to keep him away from publicly giving his version of events.

Van Jaarsveld said in spite of suspicions about the attack, it would not have immediate bearing on South Africa's policy: the police investigation would have to be evaluated first.

Millionaire newspaper tycoon Moshood Abiola has been in virtual solitary confinement, awaiting trial on charges of treason, since he declared himself president in 1994 — the year after the military government run by Sani Abacha annulled elections he appeared to have won.

**K**udiratu Abiola, who married him in 1973 and was one of a number of wives — and was said to be his favourite — was also one of the main figures in Nigeria's opposition.

Last month she appeared in court on charges of conspiracy and making false statements. She and two co-accused pleaded not guilty and her trial was to have started on July 17. The charges apparently arose from interviews she gave to Nigerian and foreign media in which she called for her husband's release from prison.

Nigerian police said in a statement they had "directed a full-scale investigation" and pledged that "no stone will be left unturned in unravelling the perpetrators of this heinous crime".

● On Wednesday police made several arrests when they broke up a protest against the assassination by thousands of students in the city of Ibadan.

*Mail & Guardian  
7 June 1996*

ANP/007/0053/2

TO	:	THE MINISTER THE ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER THE DEPUTY MINISTER THE DIRECTOR GENERAL THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS  OPERATIONAL SERVICES THE PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE	MINR→ MINR ADJM DIRG  DDGM  DOPR PARL
FROM	:	CLARA KIESEWETTER	DMED
DATE	:	7 JUNE 1996	
SUBJECT	:	MEDIA CLIPPINGS - 7 JUNE 1996	



# Foreign policy paper takes all sides

**TIM COHEN  
in Cape Town**

effits SA economically; the need to sell SA as an intersection between the first and third worlds; an emphasis on SA's role in Africa, on human rights and on acting multilaterally rather than unilaterally.

The document calls for a diplomacy of "bridge-building between the north and the south", but hints that SA's position as a large small country and a rich poor country could be used as a bargaining chip in multilateral organisations.

The document lays great emphasis on multilateralism and the growth in the importance of some multilateral organisations such as the European Union, which has become almost a "supra-state" and the World Trade Organisation which will play a huge role in regulating trade between contracting states.

The document stresses both the growth in the importance of multilateral bodies to which SA belongs, but also senses possibilities for diplomacy within them because of the changed global environment

DIPLOMACY has been defined as the art of telling others to go to hell in such a way that they actually look forward to the trip. Diplomats have been defined as people who think twice before saying nothing.

If this is true, then it should come as no surprise that the foreign affairs department's position paper on foreign policy tends to take all sides on the difficult issues.

The document, which Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo has acknowledged has been a long time coming, is the first extensive statement on SA's foreign policy by the new government. It is, at least partly, an attempt to counter criticism of the department which has been accused of being without coherence or focus. According to some academics, SA foreign policy so far has consisted entirely of what the department decided to do on any particular day.

If the "diplo-speak" is discounted, the document does at least isolate some of the important issues which SA diplomacy will have to address. Whether it deals adequately with these issues is a different question.

There seem to be five "pillars" of South African diplomacy: an emphasis on foreign policy which ben-

develop an understanding of the functioning of that organisation." The rest is positively conspiratorial: "A number of power centres exist in the OAU and on the continent. SA will have to work within the SADC to co-ordinate its positions on global issues at the UN and elsewhere."

What the document is trying to address is essentially the problem of Nigeria, which provides a useful measure of whether the stated policy as outlined in the document is in fact being implemented. It is well known in diplomatic circles that Nigeria and Nigerians dominate the OAU and even the African bloc in the UN. Hence, the attempt to tread carefully on the subject of Nigeria and to balance SA's commitments to human rights against African unity and successful diplomacy.

In presenting the document, Nzo was keen to impress on members of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee how isolated SA had become in the recent spat on Nigeria, being the only country on the con-

tinent to withdraw its ambassador. The debate almost descended into an argument between Nigeria and SA, rather than an international human rights issue.

Nzo also hinted that SA had been completely out-manoeuvred by the Nigerians, who had rallied countries in the region. The Nigerians' cleverest move was to divide the southern African bloc by gaining Namibia's support (it is rumoured through donations to Swapo's election campaign).

Through minefields like this, SA's diplomats will have to tread carefully to achieve the targets set out in the document. This dilemma is illustrated by a comment in the document that "SA should assume a leadership role in Africa in all those areas where a constructive contribution could be made without politically antagonising the country's African partners".

The problem is not so much that this statement is contradictory or tautological. SA will have to choose its issues carefully. The problem is if the foreign affairs department is to walk this kind of tightrope it will have to display a touch more deftness than it has so far.



# The man behind SA's proposed news agency

Can the chief of the government's new communication service fulfil his mandate? **Justin Pearce** investigates

Everyone is entitled to 15 minutes of fame, Sol Kotane's quarter-hour struck when his photograph was splashed across a full page in *RDP News*, in the illustrious company of Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki, and FW de Klerk.

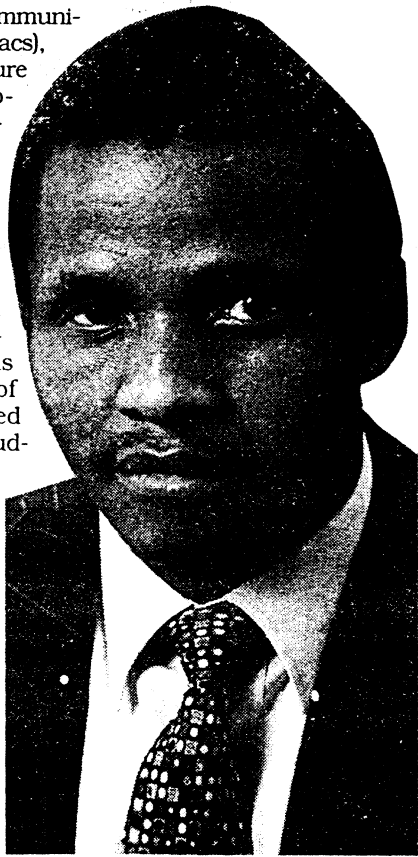
Together they made up a pull-out centrefold, with such captions as "The leader of the nation and the architect of the RDP" for Mandela; "Leading the Sacs in communicating the RDP" for Kotane; and "Close to the heartthrob of the RDP" for De Klerk.

Sol Kotane, head of the South African Communications Service (Sacs), has become a figure of major controversy after championing plans to establish a government-funded news agency.

Last weekend, *Sunday Independent* columnist Zakes Mda described the idea as "the mother of all hare-brained schemes", concluding: "The government needs to communicate, but a government-controlled news agency is neither viable nor desirable in South Africa."

For a man who is often dismissed as a wannabe propagandist, Kotane appears engagingly frank as he replies to the battering he has received in the media. He seems embarrassed that the *RDP News* — published by Sacs — had, with the photos, stepped into what one seasoned hack described as the "Ho Chi Minh school of journalism" rather than sticking to its brief of reporting on the development of the government.

"From a journalistic point of view I don't think it was in good taste to do that, especially to include my photograph," Kotane admits, adding that *RDP News* is produced by a team and it was not his decision to run the large photos.



Sol Kotane: He views news as a service and not as a means of control

Kotane's background can only add to fears that his news agency plans are a way of using taxpayers' money to trumpet the glories of the government. Most of Kotane's media education took place under the auspices of the Department of Information and Publicity (DIP) of the ANC in exile, where former colleagues say he did not hold a particularly senior position.

His active experience in the print media consists of a spell as a junior on the *Bulawayo Chronicle*, a faithful follower of the Mugabe regime, and at the Pan-African News Agency (Pana) which is funded by the Organisation of African Unity and which operates spasmodically. Pana's failure has been blamed on its inability to offer a voice independent from the outpourings of state-controlled agencies across the continent.

Suspensions about Kotane's intentions deepened when, while explaining

his proposals to Parliament's Select Committee on Communications, he praised the partisan Zimbabwean government news agency, Ziana.

Kotane insists he was quoted out of context on Ziana — it was only one example among several that he cited, he says. And his long association with the ANC translates not into a conviction that the regime will always do right, but into a blind faith that the government's commitment to freedom of expression will never falter.

"Looking at the position of the government, what I see is support for freedom of expression — not the muzzling of opinions."

Not only will government continue to allow other media a free rein, he believes, but government can succeed where the commercial press failed in mirroring South Africa to itself.

He pre-empted suspicions of a hidden agenda by taking an old-school liberal view of the media. News, in Kotane's view, is not a means of control — it is a service.

# Zim attacks SA on trade policies

Some Zimbabweans claim President Nelson Mandela is doing more to hurt them now than apartheid ever did, reports **Brian Latham** from Harare

**R**ELATIONS between South Africa and the rest of the region are at their worst since the end of apartheid.

When South African Trade Minister Alec Erwin visits Zimbabwe this week, he will be astonished at the level of anger which meets him over South African tariffs and subsidies which have left the region devastated by unfair trade practices.

South Africa's economy is 20 times bigger than Zimbabwe's, but prior to South Africa's inclusion in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Zimbabwe accounted for more than 50 percent of gross domestic product in the region.

Many businesspeople in the region feel South Africa should

decide whether it belongs to the SADC or the South African Customs Union (Sacu), saying that membership of both allows South Africa to move the goalposts.

John Robertson, a leading economist in Zimbabwe, claims that South Africa is a victim of its own history. "Sacu is very expensive for South Africa," he said. "Customs duty payments are shared within Sacu, but these could never be extended to a country like Zimbabwe. It was a sort of political buying off of Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho during the apartheid years, the need for which has gone." He added that disbanding Sacu requires the assent of all members, making South Africa's position difficult.

South Africa has imposed import tariffs of between 60 and 90% on many countries in the region — and a deposit tariff of 125% on goods in transit. The World Trade Organisation (WTO), which recommends tariffs of no more than 35%, has given South Africa a moratorium on bringing import duties down which lasts well into the next century. But else-

where in the region, manufacturers argue South Africa's high import duties were deviously imposed just before South Africa joined the WTO. "They may have done this so that they could negotiate down," said Robertson.

The dispute is further complicated by South African subsidies for manufactured exports, a measure brought in by the previous administration in its fight against sanctions. The subsidy allows, for instance, South Africa to sell car batteries in Zimbabwe and Zambia at a price well below their production price in those countries.

**A**s a part of their economic reforms, most countries in the region have removed all producer subsidies. This is despite levels of productivity in South Africa being well below Zimbabwe and, in certain sectors, below even Tanzania and Kenya.

Elsewhere within the SADC, governments and business alike accuse South Africa of pandering to both its trade organisations and its militant trade unions who fear competition

and job losses. South Africa counters that its fight is not against imported goods from the SADC alone, but also from the Far East. South African officials allege that Zimbabwe has been used as a conduit for cheap textiles from China, dressed up as Zimbabwean clothing.

Accusing South Africa of economic imperialism, manufacturers in the SADC say that it is unfair to penalise the region simply because South Africa is unable to police its civil servants.

Mark O'Donnell, chairman of the Zambian Association of Manufacturers, says that South Africa has again gone into the laager. "They would like to control the region," he claims, adding that his country's 13-to-one trade imbalance is worsening by the month.

Appearances appear to back him up. At the Shoprite supermarket on Lusaka's Cairo Road, even the milk is from South Africa — and the Spur restaurant flies in meat from Johannesburg. On the street, hundreds of hungry vendors sell cheap products as diverse as toys and perfume — often labelled in Afrikaans.

The region remains divided on how to tackle South Africa's devastating push into Africa, with many countries seemingly willing to let South Africa and Zimbabwe battle it out.

Zambia would prefer its own dispensation with the southern giant. "We cannot sustain the imbalance," said O'Donnell, "but our position is not the same as Zimbabwe's. Our impact on the South African economy would be negligible even if the tariffs were removed, whereas Zimbabwe could have a significant impact."

But there is another issue and it is charged with emotion. The countries worst affected by South African protectionism are all former "frontline states", countries which suffered, to a greater or lesser degree, the ravages of destabilisation and the torment brought about by helping and providing shelter to those who now rule South Africa.

O'Donnell says Zambians are hurt by their exclusion — and Zimbabweans say Mandela is doing more harm to their economy than apartheid ever did.

## Mandela puts off Angola visit

*7 June 1996*  
President Mandela yesterday cancelled a planned state visit to Angola because of the "internal situation" there, presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlana said. Mandela hoped to reschedule the visit, planned for June 11 to 13, "as soon as possible", but could not say whether it would take place this year, Mankahlana said.

## Visit postponed

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela has postponed a scheduled state visit to Angola for the second time following Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' decision to dismiss his cabinet earlier this week. *13/6/96*

## Mandela stel Angola-besoek 2de keer uit

*Beleka 7.6.96*  
KAAPSTAD. – Pres. Nelson Mandela het gister vir die tweede keer vanjaar 'n amptelike besoek aan Angola uitgestel.

Die eerste keer was dit oor 'n mediese ondersoek en nou is dit oor probleme in die Angolese regering.

Pres. Mandela, wat aanstaande week vir 'n kort besoek na Angola sou vertrek, het gisteroggend 'n versoek vir die uitstel van die besoek aan sy Angolese amptenoot, pres. José Eduardo dos Santos, gestuur. Die Minister van Buitelandse Sake, mnr. Alfred Nzo, gaan Maandag 'n

persoonlike boodskap van pres. Mandela aan pres. Dos Santos in Luanda oordra.

Dit volg op die afdanking deur die Angolese staatshoof vandeeweeke van sy kabinet. Hy het 'n nuwe eerste minister, mnr. Fernando Franca, versoek om weer een saam te stel.

'n Woordvoerder van pres. Mandela, mnr. Parks Mankahlana, het aan Sapa gesê die president meen dit sal onvanpas wees om 'n staatsbesoek op pres. Dos Santos af te dwing op 'n tyd wat hy 'n oorgang in sy regering moet hanteer.

## Special patrol for embassies

A special police patrol has been set up to protect embassies following three burglaries in the past six months. Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi said there had been a burglary at the Swiss embassy in Claremont, Cape Town, during which valuables including a string of pearls and two pairs of earrings were stolen. In break-ins at the Lebanese embassy in Norwood, Johannesburg, burglars netted goods and cash totalling more than R200 000. – Own Correspondent.

## Burglaries at two embassies

SENATE. – Three burglaries at foreign embassies in South Africa had been reported since the beginning of the year, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said yesterday.

Valuables totalling more than R176 000 had been stolen, R3 610 from the Swiss Embassy in Claremont in the Western Cape and two from the Lebanese Embassy in Norwood, Johannesburg in which goods stolen were valued at R50 000, and R122 468,26, he said in reply to Mark Wiley (NP).

There had been no arrests. – Sapa.

*13 JUNE 96*

ANP/007/0053/2

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The document, which Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo has acknowledged has been a long time coming, is the first extensive statement on SA's foreign policy by the new government. It is, at least partly, an attempt to counter criticism of the department which has been accused of being without coherence or focus. According to some academics, SA foreign policy so far has consisted entirely of what the department decided to do on any particular day.

If the "diplo-speak" is discounted, the document does at least isolate some of the important issues which SA diplomacy will have to address. Whether it deals adequately with these issues is a different question.

There seem to be five "pillars" of South African diplomacy: an emphasis on foreign policy which ben-

efits SA economically; the need to sell SA as an intersection between the first and third worlds; an emphasis on SA's role in Africa, on human rights and on acting multilaterally rather than unilaterally.

The document calls for a diplomacy of "bridge-building between the north and the south", but hints that SA's position as a large small country and a rich poor country could be used as a bargaining chip in multilateral organisations.

The document lays great emphasis on multilateralism and the growth in the importance of some multilateral organisations such as the European Union, which has become almost a "supra-state" and the World Trade Organisation which will play a huge role in regulating trade between contracting states.

The document stresses both the growth in the importance of multilateral bodies to which SA belongs, but also senses possibilities for diplomacy within them because of the changed global environment

from a bipolar to a multipolar world. The great divide between the capitalist and communist blocs has given way to a new environment.

This "relatively insecure, flexible and still evolving nature of the new global environment provides a favourable climate for SA to adopt a more proactive and assertive foreign policy posture", it states in the document. Hence, SA has a leadership role to play in bodies such as the Non-Aligned Movement and Southern African Development Conference (SADC).

However, the document is curiously hesitant about the Organisation for African Unity. Having noted the importance of both multilateral organisations and SA's role in Africa, the reticence on the OAU is surprising. For example: "SA must recognise that it has limited experience at the OAU and that it should

develop an understanding of the functioning of that organisation." The rest is positively conspiratorial: "A number of power centres exist in the OAU and on the continent. SA will have to work within the SADC to co-ordinate its positions on global issues at the UN and elsewhere."

What the document is trying to address is essentially the problem of Nigeria, which provides a useful measure of whether the stated policy as outlined in the document is in fact being implemented. It is well known in diplomatic circles that Nigeria and Nigerians dominate the OAU and even the African bloc in the UN. Hence, the attempt to tread carefully on the subject of Nigeria and to balance SA's commitments to human rights against African unity and successful diplomacy.

In presenting the document, Nzo was keen to impress on members of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee how isolated SA had become in the recent spat on Nigeria, being the only country on the con-

tinental to withdraw its ambassador. The debate almost descended into an argument between Nigeria and SA, rather than an international human rights issue.

Nzo also hinted that SA had been completely out-manoeuvred by the Nigerians, who had rallied countries in the region. The Nigerians' cleverest move was to divide the southern African bloc by gaining Namibia's support (it is rumoured through donations to Swapo's election campaign).

Through minefields like this, SA's diplomats will have to tread carefully to achieve the targets set out in the document. This dilemma is illustrated by a comment in the document that "SA should assume a leadership role in Africa in all those areas where a constructive contribution could be made without politically antagonising the country's African partners".

The problem is not so much that this statement is contradictory or tautological. SA will have to choose its issues carefully. The problem is if the foreign affairs department is to walk this kind of tightrope it will have to display a touch more deftness than it has so far.

# SA 'not eager to resume whaling'

*Citizen 7.6.96*

SENATE. — Reports that South Africa was eager to resume whaling were wrong, but it was only fair that the government should have a chance to review its whaling policy, Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers said yesterday.

Introducing his budget vote, he said it would be foolish of South Africa to reverse the situation in which all whales were fully protected in its coastal waters.

"South Africa will not take action that will threaten the well-being of this precious inheritance of ours."

The government was fully aware of the tremendous ecotourism potential that these creatures held.

However, it was only fair and natural that the government should have a chance to review its whaling policy in the light of the proposed new national fisheries policy handed to him a few days ago.

"One cannot review past policies rationally unless all relevant information and all possible policy options are given thought in a well-balanced manner by weighing up benefits and disadvantages to all the people of South Africa.

"Such a policy review will be the responsibility of my successor and any suggestion that policy changes have taken place is therefore factually incorrect." — Sapa.

## Ranchod rent 'misunderstood'

CAPE TOWN. — Former Deputy Speaker Dr Bhadra Ranchod said yesterday that the R42 000 arrears in rent on his official residence was due to a misunderstanding, and that he had never intended to avoid paying it.

Dr Ranchod, who arrived in Canberra at the weekend to take up his post as high commissioner

to Australasia, said he sent a fax yesterday morning to Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe offering to pay the outstanding amount.

Mr Radebe told the National Assembly on Wednesday that Dr Ranchod was one of several MPs who had been sent letters of demand over arrears. Dr Ranchod's had built up over eight months, he said.

Dr Ranchod said ordinary MPs living in state-owned homes paid only half the market rental.

He, along with some other senior parliamentary office bearers, had asked if he could be charged only half the R3 000 market-related rental on his official residence in Rondebosch.

The department had not responded, had accepted his regular pay-

ments of R1 500 a month, and had sent him no statements until the demand early last month.

"The matter was then discussed at a senior level, and I was advised by an official at Public Works that the issue had been settled. I would not have left an amount outstanding," he said.

"At no time did I ever intend avoiding payment." — Sapa.

*Citizen 7.6.96*

*The Citizen*

Friday 7 June 1996

## Call for joint action to promote tourism

SENATE. — It was important for Southern African countries to package their tourism product jointly, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister, Dr Dawie de Villiers, said yesterday.

Southern African countries had a far better chance of competing internationally if they co-operated and marketed their key attractions jointly, he said in his budget debate in the Senate.

Currently countries on the sub-continent were conducting their

marketing and promotions largely independently.

No cohesive and clear image was being projected to the international marketplace and tourists were often forced to buy their Southern African experience in fragmented bits and pieces.

"We must bear in mind that many other countries are also aiming at attracting the very same customers we would like to draw to South Africa."

Australia, Brazil and Malaysia were spending

between three and six times more on promoting their product than South Africa.

"To hold our own against these competitors we will have to overcome many problems the industry is experiencing."

The White Paper on Tourism had been approved by the cabinet and would be tabled in Parliament soon.

It highlighted a number of challenges that needed to be addressed to ignite the engine of tourism, Dr De Villiers said. — Sapa.

# Big reward for Abiola's wife's killers

LAGOS. — Nigeria police, under pressure to find the killers of the wife of a detained millionaire politician, yesterday offered a reward worth 20 times the average annual wage for information on the murder.

"A reward of one million naira (R52 000) has been offered to anybody who could offer any information that will lead to the arrest of the suspects of this heinous crime," police spokesman Tunji Alapini said in a statement.

Pro-democracy and opposition groups allege the military government was behind the death of Kudirat Abiola, the senior wife of detained presidential claimant Moshood Abiola, who was shot in the head on Tuesday while driving on a Lagos street.

Western nations have called for the culprits to be found and brought to book.

Mrs Abiola, who had campaigned for validation of the results of the 1993 presidential poll which her husband is believed to have won, was buried at the family home on Wednesday amid much wailing and anger from Mr Abiola's political supporters.

The police statement said Nigeria's most senior detective was heading the investigation into the murder which has sent political shockwaves

through the volatile African nation.

"Archibong Nkana is our best man and he is leading the investigation which is already in full swing," said one officer.

Mr Nkana is deputy inspector-general of police in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Intelligence at Alagbon Close in Lagos, the Nigerian equivalent of Scotland Yard.

The police offer compares with a 50 000 naira (R10 000) reward posted two years ago for information on Mr Abiola when he secretly proclaimed himself president and then disappeared.

No one got the reward as Mr Abiola re-emerged two weeks later and was arrested and has since been held in the capital Abuja.

While he was in detention, Mrs Abiola had pursued his claim to the presidency, calling at every opportunity for his release.

Her eldest daughter Hafsat, a 20-year-old law student in the United States, vowed in a television interview there to take up her mother's struggle.

General Sani Abacha has sent a letter of condolence to the Abiola family.

"It is with great shock and a deep sense of loss, but with total submission to the will of Allah, that I received the sad news of the tragic death of Kudirat Abiola," Gen Abacha

says in the letter.

Gen Abacha blamed "armed bandits" for the killing.

The Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People's Johannesburg office has called for the immediate isolation of Gen Abacha's government.

"Mrs Abiola's murder is clearly part of the brutal campaign by the military junta to eliminate Nigerian pro-democracy activists and silence its critics," said Mosop spokesman Willie Nwiido. — Reuter-Sapa.

**Recent campaign for her husband's release in this September 1995 file photo. Mrs Abiola, the wife of imprisoned opposition leader Moshood Abiola, was shot at close range by six gunmen while travelling in her car. She died of head wounds two hours later, as did her chauffeur.**

## Easy to suspect govt in Abiola murder: HRC

IT was easy to suspect the Nigerian military government of involvement in the murder of Kudirat Abiola, wife of detained Nigerian presidential claimant Moshood Abiola, the Human Rights Commission said yesterday.

"After all, Mrs Abiola was a well-known critic of the military regime and continued to carry the struggle associated with her husband at home and abroad," the HRC said in a statement in Pretoria.

"It is difficult to understand how such a prominent public figure, under constant surveillance from intelligence agencies, could meet her death in such a public manner without the authorities knowing about it.

"We regard her murder

as an extra-judicial execution."

Mrs Abiola was shot in the head at close range while driving along a Lagos street on Tuesday. Nigeria's military ruler General Sani Abacha has blamed the assassination on armed bandits.

The HRC said the Ni-

gerian Government, by its continued undemocratic governance, had to take responsibility for her death.

"They now have a responsibility to release Chief Abiola from prison and to restore democratic order," the HRC said. — Sapa.

# Nigerian shot dead in Hillbrow: R2m coke seized

POLICE yesterday shot an unidentified Nigerian man dead and seized cocaine and heroin they claimed had a street value of more than R2 million.

Police spokesman Inspector Mark Reynolds said police went to a block of flats in Hillbrow on the corners of Fife and Olivia streets to investigate reports of drug smuggling and racketeering.

When they arrived at a flat on the 15th-floor they found R18 000 worth of cocaine and a small amount of heroin

as well as a suitcase filled with "black dollars", that were being used in a counterfeit money scam.

A suspect in the flat escaped, and police followed him to the 10th floor. Numerous warnings were shouted, but a police officer finally fired a shot which hit the suspect in the back, said Insp Reynolds.

Paramedics were called but could not save the suspect.

Shortly afterwards, a

group of Nigerian men congregated on the 10th floor and demanded to see the officer who shot the man.

One of the group was subsequently arrested, and after the group dispersed shots were heard from the 11th floor.

Police searching for the gunmen discovered about six kilograms of cocaine with a street value of about R2 million in a flat on the 14th floor, Insp Reynolds said.

After the shooting armed police stood guard at the building's entrance, keeping an angry crowd of hundreds at bay.

About 20 Nigerians who stoned and damaged parked cars said they were constantly harassed by police, despite being legal residents and having bona fide jobs.

"A couple of weeks ago police driving a car with the plate (registration plate) BHL127B came to my flat, beat me up and stole my money and sunglasses," said one Nigerian who asked not to be named.

"I filed a report (with Hillbrow police) but nothing has happened," he said.

Another Nigerian, Laurence Ifo, said he had also been harassed by police. "They came to my flat, looked around but never told me what they were looking for," he said.

"Corruption is not acceptable to the police service and if these allegations are found to be true, members will be prosecuted in a court of law," Insp Reynolds said.

He said the Hillbrow area was notorious for drug peddling and crime. Police would step up efforts in the seedy nightclub district.

Nigerian businessman Harry James said it was a convenient excuse for police to pick on immigrants, and for police to pad their pockets. - Sapa.

## Refugees in clutches of fraud syndicate

### Court Reporter

ACCORDING to evidence in the Johannesburg Regional Court, politically dissatisfied Pakistanis were approached by "sponsors" who offered relocation to South Africa, political refugee status, gainful employment and the opportunity to return home should the current Pakistani Government lose power.

But unknown to the refugees they were in the clutches of a syndicate masterminded by foreigners.

The syndicate eased the Pakistanis from ordinary South African jobs to telecommunication line operators in their 18-month trunk call scam, which reportedly cost Telkom South Africa R800 million.

The agreement was that the refugees had to work for at least one year for the "sponsors", remuneration being food, accommodation and R50 a day.

These facts were revealed at the individual

trials in the same court of four Pakistanis, Jaafiq-ur-Rehman Bhatti, Murtaz Ahmed, Sajid Mamood and Shahid Sheik, and an Indian national, Bashir Patel.

Prosecutor Mr R Krause accepted "guilty as accomplice to fraud" pleas tendered on their behalf by Krugersdorp attorney Mr Chris Erasmus.

Charges were withdrawn against a further eight alleged syndicate employees.

The court accepted that the accused had been "unfortunate tools in the hands of the perpetrators" and fined each R3 000 (or 12 months' imprisonment) with a further 18 conditionally suspended.

Each of the guilty accused were involved for only a short while as temporary "call centres" before being arrested.

Bhatti was involved with "stolen" trunk calls totalling R88 000. Ahmed to the extent of R80 333, R32 378 for Mamood, Patel R56 325 and R128 151 in respect of Sheik.

Evidence in mitigation of sentence led by Mr Erasmus was similar for all accused.

For example, Bhatti originally sold goods from Pakistan and India at flea-markets in Sandton, Randburg and Hillbrow.

From November 18 1995 his pay was increased to R65 daily and he was placed in a flat in Kotze Street, Hillbrow, Johannesburg as "telephone operator monitoring calls to and from Pakistan".

The syndicate's modus operandi was for Bhatti (and the others) to phone a number in Pakistan where a number for America, Australia, Europe etc was provided.

"I would then have to use a second telephone to dial the number provided. Once telecommunication was established I had to affix a patch-cord between the telephone lines with the Pakistani call and the second phone."

This "conference facility" enabled discussions between the two persons on the two different phone lines.



# SABC considers more changes

Mail & Guardian 7.6.96

Jacquie Golding-Duffy

**M**OST of the SABC's current affairs programmes may be scrapped to accommodate African-language viewers.

SABC television analyst Don Seokane said the decision to reduce the corporation's eight current affairs programmes was not yet finalised, but the management of Television News had attended a *bosberaad* last month where proposals on repositioning the corporation's news department were garnered.

Television News management, he said, was only at this stage "considering increasing the time allocated for news bulletins and reducing the number of *Focus* programmes".

This means news bulletins could be accompanied by packaged current affairs programmes of between 15 and 30 minutes long, in the lan-

guage used during the news bulletin.

"Current affairs programmes are predominantly in English and management, in reassessing the situation, felt African-language groups should be accommodated. It was proposed that extra time be latched on to African-language bulletins, allowing for a current affairs programme to occur in any of the indigenous languages," Seokane said.

The *bosberaad* involved all the regional news heads, heads of the various sections, including current affairs, and Television News editor-in-chief Joe Thlolo.

Seokane said it was believed that the various news sections could be more "effective", and the proposal arose from concerns that current affairs programmes in particular may not be complying with the language requirements stipulated by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

A meeting between Television News management and channel heads was planned this week to gather more proposals and discuss the feasibility of attaching packaged current affairs programmes to news slots, he added.

"The length of the current affairs programmes depend on the air time allocated on each channel, but nothing in this regard has been finalised. It is still in the process of discussion and is a mere proposal."

Although the SABC is adamant that the proposal is based around accommodating South Africa's 11 languages, some sources within the corporation argue that this is a cost-cutting exercise, an effort to increase audience ratings and a bid to attract more advertising revenue around its flagship programmes.

Goodwill Zwelithini: King on the run?

PHOTO: DAVE BUZZAND

## Is king hiding in Swaziland?

Babazile Magongo

**K**ING Goodwill Zwelithini has spent most of the past month in Swaziland, staying in royal accommodation.

His stay in Swaziland is said by government sources in Mbabane to be semi-permanent because he fears for his life in KwaZulu-Natal.

The king entered Swaziland secretly on May 10 in his black limousine and settled at the Manzana guest house near Lobamba, where Swazi King Mswati III hosts important guests.

He entered Swaziland after one of his wives, Queen Buhle KaMathe, and one of his daughters, Princess Sibusile, were attacked in his Kwa-Mashu home near Durban in April.

From the first day of his visit, no official would talk openly about his visit for "security reasons". He is reported to be under tight security and has been seen rarely in public since his arrival in Swaziland.

Zwelithini is Mswati III's brother-in-law and he was among the guests who attended the Swazi king's wedding on the weekend of May 31 to his sixth wife.

Zwelithini's spokesman, Prince Sifiso Zulu, this week denied the king was hiding in Swaziland. He said the king had only gone there to attend the royal wedding.

**T**HE CYNICISM in the sadness expressed by the generals who rule Nigeria over the death of Mrs Kudirat Abiola is overshadowed only by their disregard for human rights.

When they hanged writer Ken Saro-Wiwa these military dictators showed a singular lack of human decency. They were callous murderers who showed no repentance for hanging the writer.

After Kudirat Abiola's death, military leader General Sani Abacha sent a letter of condolence expressing his government's "great shock" at the news of the assassination.

Most people would consider such commiseration hypocritical as the Abacha regime has kept a close security watch on Mrs Abiola.

Many Nigerians thus believe the government is behind the assassination. It is not too difficult to support this view. Nigerians must become serious in their mobilisation to get rid of this regime. The international community has to condemn the Nigerian military rulers.

## KOTANE, cont.

"The government has an obligation to establish something to help deliver information to its constituency," he says. "I appreciate the role

played by the newspapers and Sapa [the South African Press Association, an independent national agency]. But is that enough?"

Unlike many who bang the empowerment drum, he sounds almost apologetic about raising the question of race, and his criticisms of the shortcomings of existing media could not be more diplomatic: "In the 60 years of Sapa's existence, the majority voice never had a platform. I am not lumping the blame on Sapa — the regime of the day did not want to encourage a diversity of opinion."

**K**otane's vision is of a news agency which can reach into the remotest village and the most miserable squatter camp in the country, and come back with the stories. And if no one else is going to do this, then the government can and the government will.

Kotane declares the agency will enjoy editorial autonomy and will even carry articles critical of the government — a notion which has been greeted with scepticism by observers of the history of any number of other well-intentioned schemes in Africa.

Kotane is bullish about the agency's chances of success in an environment very different from countries like Zimbabwe where state-owned newspapers are a captive market for a state-owned news agency. He would like to see the large papers subscribe to a government service, but if they don't, then he is confident that

mostly rural community papers will jump at the chance of news that is not filtered through the big city press.

Some have accused Kotane of being an empire-builder, citing the pin-up portrait in *RDP News*, and Kotane's brief but amply rewarded spell as head of Bophuthatswana Broadcasting which began with no prior broadcasting experience, and ended after little more than a year with a retrenchment package of around R100 000. This incident is one which Kotane explains away without embarrassment: he says he was entitled to R500 000, but thought it would not be appropriate.

He unblinkingly refutes the idea that the proposed news agency will continue to swallow taxpayers' money until the end of time: if it has served its purpose after a decade, then let it be disbanded, he says.

Victor Moche, who worked with Kotane in the DIP, describes him as "not ambitious, but tenacious — sometimes to a frustrating level. When he bites into something he has to be prised off."

Talking to Kotane, it is clear that it will take a lot to prise him away from his plans for a government news agency. He acknowledges that the future of government communications policy is still a matter for discussion, but the enthusiasm with which he talks about the agency plan makes it quite clear where his intentions lie — never mind the costs to the taxpayer, and the fears that a state news agency will inevitably become a propaganda tool.



The casket of Kudirat Abiola is carried through the crowd to its last resting place in the family compound in Lagos, Nigerian, on Wednesday. Abiola, the wife of imprisoned opposition party leader Moshood K Abiola, was shot dead at close range by six gunmen on Tuesday when travelling in her car. She died of head wounds hours afterwards, as did her chauffeur.

PIC: AP

# Dictator Abacha blames 'bandits'

**N**IGERIAN MILITARY DICTATOR General Sani Abacha has sent a letter of condolence to the family of slain opposition activist Kudirat Abiola, who was killed by gunmen who fired on her car in Lagos on Tuesday.

"It is with great shock and a deep sense of loss, but with total submission to the will of Allah, that I received the sad news of the tragic death of Kudirat Abiola," Abacha says in the letter, a copy of which was sent to *Sapa* by the Nigerian embassy in Washington.

She was buried on Wednesday amid anti-Abacha protest.

Abacha blamed "armed bandits" for the killing.

The Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People's Johannesburg office yesterday called for the immediate

## Opposition in Jo'burg calls for isolation of the military regime

isolation of Abacha's government.

"Mrs Abiola's murder is clearly part of the brutal campaign by the military junta to eliminate Nigerian pro-democracy activists and silence its critics," said Mosop spokesman Willie Nwiido.

### Successful coup

Abacha carried out a successful coup on November 17, 1993, and jailed for treason Abiola's husband Mosood Abiola, who won the June 1993 presidential election. Kudirat Abiola (44) was prominent in the campaign for her husband's release.

Late last year Abacha ordered the

execution of minority rights activist Ken Saro Wiwa and eight other activists, spurring an international outcry.

President Nelson Mandela this week joined other heads of state in expressing shock over Abiola's death.

In his letter to the Abiola family, Abacha extolled the virtues of Kudirat Abiola as a "mother, motivator and a counsellor" and said "her demise at this epoch of our political development is therefore not only a loss to you but to the nation as a whole".

Lawyers for Human Rights said: "Abacha's stated commitment to return to civilian rule should be viewed with scepticism." - *Sapa*.

# Arab leaders to discuss M-E peace process

DAMASCUS. — Syrian President Hafez al-Assad and leaders of Egypt and Saudi Arabia will hold talks in Damascus today on the Middle East peace process, officials said yesterday.

Syrian officials said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah — in the place of King Fahd who is in poor health — will discuss “how to form a united Arab front” after the win in Israel of Benjamin Netanyahu, who says he opposes trading occupied Arab land for peace.

The meeting would be the latest in a series of top-level sessions among Arab leaders since the election last week of Mr Netanyahu, who heads the Right-wing Likud party.

“Arabs are now in bad need for solidarity and unity to confront Israel’s

anti-peace intentions, especially after the victory of the extremists in the Israeli elections,” a Syrian official said.

In Cairo, Egypt’s Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said the three leaders would discuss recommendations and proposals made by their foreign ministers who met in Riyadh this week to discuss the impact of Mr

Netanyahu’s election on the peace process.

There was no immediate comment from Saudi Arabia, which earlier yesterday denied the summit would be held in the kingdom.

Mr Moussa said the meeting aimed to “study the Arab situation, bring Arab states together and support the peace process.”

Jordan’s King Hussein, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and President Mubarak on Wednesday held talks in the Red Sea port of Aqaba, where they urged Mr Netanyahu to stick to a peace process based on exchanging land for peace with the Arabs.

Outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres supported the land-for-

*Citizen 7-6-96*

## Let’s build faith, urges Netanyahu

HAIFA, Israel. — After a confrontation with Yasser Arafat over Palestinian statehood, Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu called for a timeout in the rhetoric yesterday.

However, Mr Netanyahu was evasive when asked whether he would meet with the Palestinian leader, saying only that he was ready to negotiate a permanent peace agreement with the Palestinians.

“We will negotiate the permanent arrangement, and I suggest we stop making statements and start taking steps to build faith rather than break faith,” Mr Netanyahu said at a news conference in the northern port city of Haifa.

In his first wide-ranging news conference since winning the May 29 elections, Mr Netanyahu said he might ask the Labour Party of defeated Prime Minister Shimon Peres to join his government.

However, such an offer would only be made once the basic guidelines for government policy have been written, he said.

An alliance of the dovish Labour and Mr

Netanyahu’s Right-wing Likud Party might ease concerns by the West and the Arab world about the future of Mideast peacemaking.

During the campaign, Mr Netanyahu had espoused tough positions, saying he would block the creation of a Palestinian state, expand Jewish settlements and never share sovereignty in Jerusalem.

In a statement directed at Mr Netanyahu on

Wednesday, Pres Arafat said statehood “is the desire of the Palestinian people and nobody can stop it”.

In a quick response, Mr Netanyahu said his “position opposing the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital is known”.

Mr Netanyahu said yesterday that he hadn’t changed his views, but that such exchanges were not conducive to peacemaking. — Sapa-AP.

# Israel's diplomatic offensive ignores Arafat, PLO

JERUSALEM. — Israeli prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu has waged a diplomatic offensive to reassure Arab states of his commitment to the Middle East peace process, but has openly snubbed the leader closest to home, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Since his election last week and even before forming his government, Mr Netanyahu has multiplied direct and indirect contacts with foreign leaders alarmed by the defeat at the polls of Shimon Peres, architect of the peace process.

Mr Netanyahu notably spoke by telephone with King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, the two Arab states which have signed peace agreements with Israel.

The Right-wing leader, who is engaged in intense negotiations on forming a coalition government, also took time out to meet twice this week with Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiuni and is expected to make one of

his first foreign visits to Cairo in June or July.

But he has also been in touch with Arab states which have only begun developing relations with Israel, notably Gulf emirates who hold a key to Israeli trade growth in the region.

He spoke with Sultan Qaboos of Oman, the current head of the Gulf Co-operation Council, and telephoned Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad ibn Jassem ibn Jabr al-Khalifa to stress "that he will act to pursue the Middle East peace process".

Israeli public radio reported yesterday that Mr Netanyahu had also been in contact with Morocco and Mauritania.

In contrast, Mr Netanyahu has sought no direct contact with Pres Arafat, who he has avoided mentioning by name since his election.

He has also publicly

ignored the Palestine Liberation Organisation with which Israel signed the Oslo peace accords and must negotiate a permanent peace settlement for the Palestinian territories.

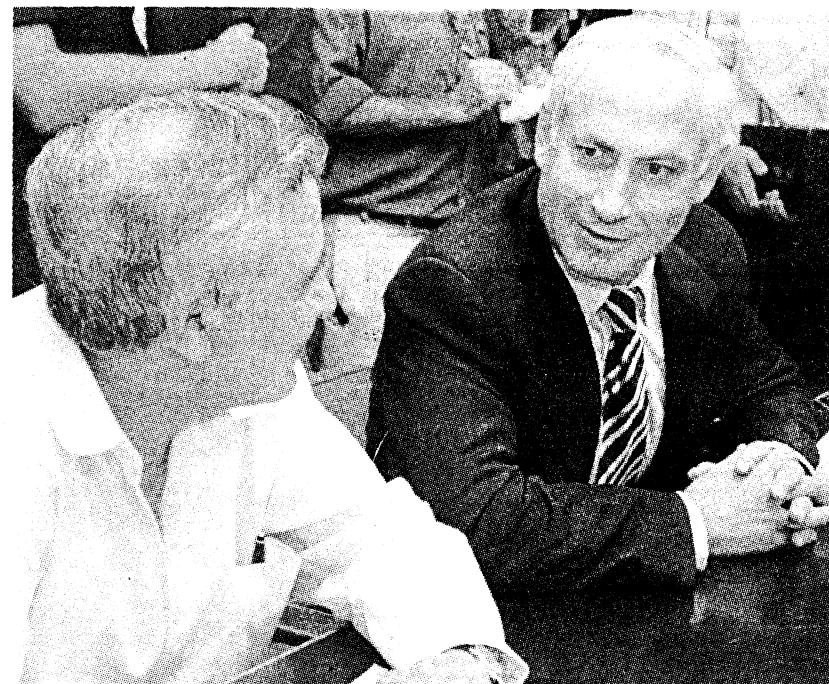
When Pres Arafat declared his intention to proclaim the creation of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, Mr Netanyahu responded with a brief written statement.

The low-key communique gave Pres Arafat no title — he is the elected president of the Palestinian self-rule authority and PLO chairman — and simply stated that the prime minister-elect "views differently" the future of the holy city and the Palestinian territories.

— Mr Netanyahu said yesterday he envisioned an alternative peace track with Syria that would circumvent stalled talks on the future of the Golan Heights.

"I think there are additional ways to advance confidence-building between Syria and Israel and alleviate the tension and the existing situation of hostility ahead of full peace and a peace treaty," he told reporters.

Mr Netanyahu, who opposes returning the occupied Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for peace, said no one should doubt his intention to conduct negotiations with Damascus. — Sapa-AFP-Reuter.



**ISRAELI Prime Minister-elect BENJAMIN NETANYAHU (right), speaks to Likud coalition negotiator MOSHE KATSAV at the Knesset in Jerusalem. Senior Likud members are suggesting that Mr Netanyahu should bring in the defeated Labour Party into his government.**

Sowetan 7 June 1996

# A very troubled state

**L**AGOS — THE SLAIN WIFE of jailed opposition leader Chief Moshood Abiola was buried on Wednesday after police broke up protests against her murder and amid international pressure on Nigeria.

Some mourners chanted anti-government slogans, demanding that the military regime of General Sani Abacha act swiftly to arrest the "armed bandits" said to have killed Kudirat Abiola (44).

She had been an outspoken advocate for the release of her millionaire husband, jailed on treason charges after he claimed to be the real winner of Nigeria's last presidential elections on June 12 1993.

"Adieu Kudirat Abiola. June 12 will not die," read a placard carried by university students in academic gowns who attended the burial, which was conducted according to Muslim rites.

They also sang in Yoruba, the language of Abiola's birthplace in southwestern Nigeria: "Those who have killed Kudirat in her prime, have murdered sleep. They and their offspring will know no rest and they will soon be visited by the god of lightning."

In the presence of about 15 ambassadors and other diplomats, including those of the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany and South Africa, the students forced another Nigerian millionaire, Alhaji Wahab Folawiyo, to quit the venue before the burial ceremony got under way. They accused him of being too pro-government.

## Original anthem

As the ceremony began, the students led the crowd in singing the nation's original post-independence national anthem, which was discarded more than 10 years ago.

The burial was completed without incident and without visible police presence around Abiola's vast residential quarters in the Ikeja district of Lagos.

But earlier police made several arrests when they broke up a protest by thousands of students in Ibadan.

Police bolstered security measures in the city and blocked access to the headquarters of Oyo state military governor Colonel Ike Nwosu, where the protest march was headed, witnesses said.

The protesters chanted slogans critical of the military regime and demanded the release of Moshood Abiola and acceptance of the 1993 presidential election results.

The crowd dispersed without clashing with the police but several people, believed to be organisers of the march, were arrested.

Meanwhile, a delegation of government ministers and high ranking officers from the

The assassination and funeral of detained Nigerian leader Moshood Abiola's wife Kudirat has renewed international criticism of and pressure on dictator Sani Abacha's military junta...



**Flashback ...** Kudirat Abiola during a campaign for the release of her husband Moshood in September 1995. She was shot at close range by six gunmen on Tuesday morning.

PIC: AP

military junta, led by army chief of staff General Ishaya Bamaïyi, presented its condolences to the Abiola family.

Bamaïyi handed over a letter from Abacha expressing "great shock and deep sense of loss" at the news of the killing. He promised to do all he could to clarify the "mysterious" circumstances of her death.

Abiola's violent death sent shock waves across the country and was condemned in Nigeria and abroad.

A minority movement whose leaders were executed late last year called on Wednesday for the isolation of Abacha's regime.

Abiola's death "is clearly no coincidence and bears the hallmark of assassinations of other prominent pro-democracy activists," the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People said.

President Nelson Mandela said through a spokesman that he had "learned with shock of the heinous act". US state Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said: "The US deplors the killing."

## Reprehensible crime

"We urge the government of Nigeria to diligently pursue the killers and ensure that they are identified and duly prosecuted in an open court of law for this reprehensible crime."

In Ottawa, Canadian foreign minister Lloyd Axworthy expressed his "shock" at the murder, calling Abiola "a tireless campaigner for the liberation of her husband and for Nigerian democracy in general".

He also expressed concern at the "continued deterioration of the situation in Nigeria", whose membership of the Commonwealth was suspended after last year's executions.

France deplored the murder and called on Nigerian military authorities to shed maximum light on the crime. It also called for the release of Moshood Abiola and other political prisoners.

● The killing of Abiola was the latest in a series of murders of major opponents of Abacha's military regime.

## Murdered or injured

While her husband's trial — he is charged with treason — has been repeatedly postponed over legal technicalities, several other Nigerian opposition figures have either been murdered or seriously injured.

Others have had their homes or offices either burnt or damaged by unknown assailants.

Last October, gunmen burst into the bedroom of Chief Alfred Rewane, a major financial backer of the opposition National Democratic Coalition and shot him dead.

In February, Alex Ibru, the Abacha regime's former internal affairs minister and owner of the *Guardian* Press group, was shot and wounded as he returned home from his office.

He was known for his principled stand for justice and recognition of Abiola's claimed victory.

Navy Admiral Olugbenga Omotehinwa was fatally wounded by armed intruders at his home in May. The admiral, believed to be a friend of a prominent opposition figure in exile, died later in hospital.

Other pro-democracy activists and friends of Abiola, such as Chief Segun Osoba, the former civilian governor of Ogun state, and Ayo Opadokun, Nadeco's detained secretary-general, have either been assaulted or have had their homes attacked by gangs in the last two years. — *Sapa-AFP*.



# Angolan crisis: Mandela calls off visit

*Time & Guardian*

*7 June 1994*

**Gaye Davis**

**P**RESIDENT Nelson Mandela has called off his visit to Angola in the wake of President José Eduardo dos Santos's sacking of his Cabinet and the governor of the central bank.

Mandela was to have left South Africa on Tuesday for a largely symbolic visit, during which he would have addressed the Angolan Parliament. It was intended as a gesture of goodwill to send a signal that the United Nations-brokered peace process was working and to boost confidence in the region.

"The president sent a note to President Dos Santos this morning asking that the visit be rescheduled due to prevailing circumstances," said presidential spokesman Parks Mankhanya.

"The president feels it would be inconsiderate to impose a state visit of this magnitude on the Angolan government while they were undergoing a period of transition."

In the letter Mandela assured Dos Santos of his full support in addressing the problems which had led to the dissolution of the government and said he was committed to ensuring the success of the peace process.

Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo will travel to Angola on Monday to convey a personal message to President Dos Santos from Mandela.

On Monday, Dos Santos axed prime minister Marcolino Moco and all his ministers and suspended the country's foreign exchange trade.

"He is getting rid of the people blamed for the economic crisis in the country," said Institute for International Affairs researcher Glenn Oosthuysen. "He could be making

them scapegoats, however. Angola is run by the military — the generals have their finger in every economic pie. Civil society doesn't really exist."

By presidential decree, Dos Santos named Fernando Franca van Dunem as the new prime minister. Van Dunem now has five days to form a new government, which is expected to make better headway in pushing through economic reforms.

Oosthuysen said he expected Unita would "make a meal of it" should the new government comprise only members of the ruling party, the MPLA, but said this would only be of rhetorical value. "It is too early to expect Unita to come into the government."



**Alfred Nzo: Planning to take over where Nelson Mandela left off**

A government of national unity, with key ministries for Unita, is due to be formed at some stage this year.

Unita leader Jonas Savimbi's troops were not yet demobilised and each side was accusing the other of rearming. It was unclear what progress had been made on the integration of the two forces, due to have begun on June 1.

## Out of Africa

■ IT'S not often that the *manne* in the bar agree with Alfred Nzo — but all that could change with the minister's elegy for the SABC's Channel Africa, which is soon to close. Nzo said Channel Africa "had played an important role in informing listeners about political and other developments in South Africa".

Oupa van Tonder, who remembers the days when Channel Africa gave all the good news about how our *manne* were keeping the communists out of Angola, can only concur.

**F**OREIGN Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo said the ministry will no longer fund the SABC's external service — Channel Africa.

The SABC said the station is expected to close in about two months. The corporation plans to conduct a government-sponsored feasibility study on developing a foreign radio broadcast to replace Channel Africa.

*MEDIA BRIEFING*

*Time & Guardian 7 June*

# Abiola's death won't change SA's policy

Stefaans Brümmer and Sapa-AFP

**T**HE apparent assassination of Kudiratu Abiola, activist wife of imprisoned Nigerian leader Chief Moshood Abiola, is unlikely to prompt South Africa to formulate a stronger policy against Nigeria's military government.

Abiola (44) died from a gunshot wound to the head in Lagos on Tuesday, the same day Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo publicly acknowledged South Africa had toned down its hardline stance on Nigeria in response to accusations by South Africa's partners on the continent that it was acting against African solidarity.

Nzo told Parliament's foreign affairs committee it was "important to go along with other countries", while "we have not retracted from our call for Nigeria to embark on democracy". This confirmed the view that President Nelson Mandela's call for sanctions against Nigeria, first made after the execution last year of Nigerian minority rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, had been dropped in favour of a softer common African position.

This week the African National Congress's labour partner, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, made a new call for sanctions — and South African high commissioner to Nigeria, George Nene, joined mourners at Abiola's funeral on Wednesday afternoon — but it seems unlikely Nzo's ministry will plot a new policy course for now.

A Foreign Affairs representative said: "We decided at a summit that we would work through the SADC [the Southern African Development Community]... I don't think that will change."

South Africa's deputy high commissioner to Nigeria, Jan van Jaarsveld, said members of the diplomatic corps doubted Nigerian dictator General Sani Abacha's statement that the attack on Kudiratu Abiola, her driver and her personal assistant, had been a robbery attempt.

He said: "Her car was forced from the road at a T-junction. People are talking about several shots from an automatic gun. But what raises suspicion is that she died of a single shot to the head."

Van Jaarsveld said the driver had died of several wounds, but the personal assistant, who was unscathed, had been arrested by the Nigerian police "to help with the investigation". He said this came across as a possible attempt to keep him away from publicly giving his version of events.

Van Jaarsveld said in spite of suspicions about the attack, it would not have immediate bearing on South Africa's policy: the police investigation would have to be evaluated first.

Millionaire newspaper tycoon Moshood Abiola has been in virtual solitary confinement, awaiting trial on charges of treason, since he declared himself president in 1994 — the year after the military government run by Sani Abacha annulled elections he appeared to have won.

**K**udiratu Abiola, who married him in 1973 and was one of a number of wives — and was said to be his favourite — was also one of the main figures in Nigeria's opposition.

Last month she appeared in court on charges of conspiracy and making false statements. She and two co-accused pleaded not guilty and her trial was to have started on July 17. The charges apparently arose from interviews she gave to Nigerian and foreign media in which she called for her husband's release from prison.

Nigerian police said in a statement they had "directed a full-scale investigation" and pledged that "no stone will be left unturned in unravelling the perpetrators of this heinous crime".

● On Wednesday police made several arrests when they broke up a protest against the assassination by thousands of students in the city of Ibadan.

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