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Inkatha to stand in white X municipal election

MONICA OOSTERBROEK
Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — For the first time the Inkatha Freedom Party will be represented in an election — in the municipal by-election for Malvern next Wednesday.

As Malvern consists of a cross-section of the different factions making up the white vote, all eyes will be on the results to see the type of support Inkatha has among white suburbia.

Opinion Polls and the Human Science Research Council estimate the total Inkatha vote in the general election to be around 10 percent — and the IFP are hoping to crush these perceptions on June 23.

Inkatha candidate Mrs Gerda Bekker, wife of Mr Hennie Bekker, IFP MP for Malvern/Kensington, will be relying heavily on the strong support and popularity of her husband.

Because it is a whites-only vote, Mrs Bekker has opted to stand as an independent under the IFP banner, but stressed that she was getting full moral support and background advice from the party.

She believes people will opt to vote for her and the IFP for "politically correct" reasons.

Malvern has traditionally been National Party territory. It won the last municipal by-election in 1988 by a huge margin. But the elected NP councillor, Mr Richard McArthur, became so unpopular that it is not likely to be plain sailing for National Party candidate Mr Tony Wassermann.

A third candidate, standing as an independent, is Ratepayer's Association chairman Mr Barry Dunne.

(H)

Douglas probe goes on trial

THE Douglas commission into alleged human rights abuses at ANC camps went on trial at the similarly-briefed Motsuenyane commission this week when ANC and SA Communist Party official Ronnie Kasrils requested a hearing.

Mr Kasrils was said by advocate Bob Douglas to have imprisoned disobedient MK soldiers in a Quibaxe camp basement filled with choking fumes from a diesel generator.

To refute this, Mr Kasrils presented the Motsuenyane commission with affidavits from the men imprisoned, and those present at the tribunal which convicted them, stating that he had nothing to do with their case.

Deny

While visiting the camp he lived in the room next to the generator and suffered no ill effects, he added.

The affidavits from the former prisoners deny that they had to leave the basement — where they were housed at night — because of the fumes. The basement cell was at least 50 metres away, Mr Kasrils said.

He said these allegations — and mention of them in the Sunday Times — were totally unbecoming a legal mind, and that Mr Douglas and Sunday Times editor Ken Owen had allowed their anti-communist phobia to cloud their judgment.

Kids who went to war in '76

KHOTSO SEATLHOLO: Was among those who led the first march on June 16. He later helped plan the escape of firebrand student leader Tsietso Mashinini after police put a price on his head.

Mashinini led the revolt against Afrikaans being used as a medium of instruction in black schools. He died in exile and was buried in South Africa in 1990.

Seatlhlo recalls: "We held a meeting on Sunday, June 13 where the June 16 march was planned and Mashinini was elected president.

"On June 16, we marched from Naledi High to other schools. As we approached Orlando West we noticed a large police contingent.

"By that time, the first shots had

Wednesday is the 17th anniversary of the 1976 riots. **EZRA MANTINI** speaks to four activists who were at the forefront of the June 16 1976 student revolt

been fired by the police."

Today he is a financial manager of Finco — a subsidiary of the Independent Development Trust.

MURPHY MOROBE: Only one white policeman was among those who fired the shots that killed 12-year-old Hector Peterson, according to former student activist and UDF leader Murphy Morobe.

"We left Morris Isaacson School and marched to Orlando West.

"It was only after the shootings in Orlando West that students became aggressive. It was there that police confronted students.

"If I remember correctly, there was only one white policeman. The rest were blacks. The police let a dog loose which was killed by the students. The police saw red.

"As we retreated, Hector Peterson was fatally shot. Then everything broke into disorder."

Today Murphy Morobe is manager for social investments at PG Bison.

DAN MONTSITSE: Now a national co-ordinator with Matla Trust, he became a student activist in 1971.

"I felt the struggle should not be carried by students alone, but by our parents as well. I interwove our actions with parent groups. We called for their support and started the rent boycott."

LYBON MABASA: In June 1976 he was a teacher at Meadowlands High school and had been active in the South African Students' Organisation.

He said: "I attended the June 13 meeting. We, as teachers, decided to pretend to know nothing.

"It was only after we heard on the radio that some students had been shot that we went to the scene. By that time there was trouble all over.

"We were impressed because the students insisted there should be a return to school, no matter what happened.

"They also insisted on wearing their uniforms."

SABC chief takes issue with Sunday Star article

I MUST begin by objecting to the misrepresentation of facts, the unquestioning presentation of hearsay, and particularly the display of implicit self-interest, in Ms Peta Thornycroft's article "We could learn a lot from the Canadians" in the Sunday Star of June 6 1993.

Ms Thornycroft refers to the 14 print journalists who were trained in Canada (which, by the way, included two SABC members and staff and was sponsored by the Campaign for Open Media).

However, she neglects to mention that she was one of the 14, aspiring to introduce her peculiar brand of broadcasting proficiency (after nine weeks of training) at the SABC and thereby to rid the almost 500 experienced broadcasting journalists of the yoke of ineptness that she perceives.

We are not at odds with Ms Thornycroft about the "grass is always greener on the other side" Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. But we would expect her to do her homework equally well when it comes to the SABC.

Here are some facts:

■ The corporate budget for training is R1.8 million.

■ From June 1992 to May 1993 alone, 2332 of the 5600 SABC members of staff took courses covering the full spectrum of broadcasting disciplines.

■ Television News Productions trained or retrained 325 members of staff (more than half of its staff complement) during the same period.

All radio news journalists are also subject to training and since the present system was initiated in 1987, more than 4000 training modules have been completed by radio news staff.

Any suggestion that broadcasting training "is void at the SABC", or that there is no formal structure, is completely false and not worthy of your



WYNAND HARMSE... objects to report.

newspaper.

■ We do concede that our people could do with more training. That is why we have initiated several internal and external training courses, and were very happy to send two of our own staff on the same course as Ms Thornycroft. We do need more expertise too.

No TV news organisation could ever have enough expertise. We are constantly on the lookout for competent people, and when we find them, we appoint them. As for Ms Thornycroft's charge of an abuse of equipment owing to a lack of training, this is wholly unsubstantiated.

All I can say in reply is that we are praised continually by our international clients for the technical quality of our broadcasts, such as the Chris Hani funeral and recent sports events.

Ms Thornycroft's assertions are an insult, at least to those members of the SABC's staff who are poached regularly by rival broadcasters, both locally and internationally.

No, we do not have the capacity to broadcast a 24-hour national news service, nor for that matter does the CBC or any other national broadcaster, without relying heavily on international news services such as CNN and SKY News.

The charge that the SABC dresses up actors to present news is nothing short of ludicrous. None of the TV1 or TV2 news presenters lacks journalistic experience.

They may not be journalistic prima donnas, but they have done a great deal towards making the SABC more credible than the sum total of the print media.

Ms Thornycroft points out that the SABC is a public broadcaster, but she fails to mention that the SABC is a public broadcaster and has an entirely different set of obligations. It is answerable to its shareholders.

SABC's top management, but makes no mention of the state of affairs in other media companies (including the Argus Group), nor of the changes in Television News, for instance, where black and white managers are virtually equally distributed across the news broadcasting spectrum.

As for print journalists not wanting to be seen at the SABC, the converse is true. Both experienced journalists and novices are queuing up as never before, and somehow it would seem that Ms Thornycroft is acting out the frustrations of her nine weeks of training.

It is patent that Ms Thornycroft is guilty of just what she has accused us of in the past: a "mindset".

She was out of this country for many years in the Eighties, and now purports to be an expert on how we conducted our affairs.

Unfounded statements such as that Johan Pretorius supported the PW Botha government give the lie to much of what appears in this article.

One would expect a "special writer" to be a well-informed, competent and fair journalist.

W J J Harmse

Group Chief Executive
SABC Johannesburg

■ Peta Thornycroft replies: Wynand Harmse may have misread some of what I wrote in my opinion piece last week.

A paragraph went missing in the blurb stating I was part of the group, but it is clear from what I wrote I was there — that was why I wrote the column. And there were three, not two, SABC employees on the course.

I was writing about news and current affairs. There is no space here to debate training in this field point by point. But are there courses to transform print journalists for the electronic media? SABC employees say no. Are there trained trainers? Are producers trained? Again, I am told no.

It is true that until quite recently few respected print journalists applied to work at the SABC. Happily, that has changed. There are many excellent broadcast journalists at the SABC, just not enough of them. And most anchors at other public broadcasters write their own copy and don't advertise clothes.

Regarding the Argus Group, it is not a public broadcaster and has an entirely different set of obligations. It is answerable to its shareholders.

Ms Thornycroft's last paragraph refers to a report published nearly two years ago in the Sunday Star.

Call to destroy weapons

By JOHANNES NGCOBO

THE ANC and the PAC this week endorsed a call by the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa for the public destruction of all dangerous weapons confiscated by police.

UN political adviser Mr Muno Ndula called on police "to work out a programme to ensure that all dangerous weapons taken during police raids are destroyed in public".

Mr Ndula said: "For people to be convinced that all weaponry confiscated by police does not find its way back to killers who use them against unarmed communities, the arms should be destroyed in public."

Confirming that police did not destroy all weapons seized in townships, an SAP spokesman in Pretoria said that some of the confiscated weapons were used by the police and other state departments.

The spokesman said 9mm firearms were used, but AK-47s were destroyed.



Rambo rhetoric won't answer the questions

IN THE days when the young Houghton MP, Mr Tony Leon, described himself as a "muscular liberal" — thereby earning himself such nicknames as Tarzan and Rambo — he was quite gung-ho for individual liberties.

It was he, indeed, who first drew my attention to the suppression of free speech on the campuses and while he preferred then to remain in the background, I came to regard him as an important source of support and encouragement in the battles that ensued.

He was thrown into a wobble, however, by the great U-turn on February 2 1990, and flirted with the idea of hitching his wagon to President de Klerk's star. The infatuation was brief: Mr Leon is too intelligent to overlook for long the narrowness of the passage into which Mr de Klerk has sailed, and since then he has drifted mildly leftward towards the flaccid end of the liberal spectrum.

Now he is gung-ho for equality, which cause he preaches with the zeal of a convert: "We cannot possibly hope for equality until we begin to undo inequality," he and co-author Etienne Mureinik wrote recently in defence of the DP's bill of rights. "Until then, the liberties we prize so much will remain luxuries to be enjoyed by the privileged."

The truth of this assertion, which has long been popular among the more soft-hearted of the privileged classes, is not self-evident: poverty does not necessarily prevent a person from voting, or speaking his mind, or following his conscience, and if he has difficulty in getting into the courts, it is because the cost of lawyers has become so exorbitant, and the procedures of the law so Byzantine, that even the middle classes are often precluded from claiming justice.

Nevertheless, they clearly do believe that equality must be achieved before there can be a meaningful enjoyment of liberty. "The truth," they say, "as anyone in touch with reality knows, is that the war against apartheid is far from won — and to win it we need to aspire to both liberty and equality."

Clearly, in this context, they mean something more than equal rights for all citizens, and indeed the DP's bill of rights confirms this conclusion. It sets out not simply to secure rights, but to undo the inequalities created by apartheid.

About this laudable aim there is no dispute. It is a matter of some pride to me that a new book by that neo-conservative iconoclast, Grantland Bray, contains among its acknowledgements this one: "(To) Ken Owen, for persuading me that some kind of reparation was indeed needed."

The question at issue is whether the elimination of gross economic injustice is best achieved by the bill of rights, or by entrenching it in the constitution. And that is quite another matter.

Personally, I am confident that the ANC, when it comes to power, will find ways to redistribute wealth through the fiscus so fast that rich and clever people like Mr Leon will soon be fighting the temptation to emigrate. If they succumb they will find ready buyers for their property among black people. The Swazi businessman who is buying up hotels in the Eastern Transvaal is but an early example of the rising breed of South African entrepreneurs.

Even the vexed question of land ownership, to which so much emotion attaches, is likely to prove less of a problem than it seems. Land will become abundantly (and cheaply!) available if the next government simply restricts all forms of state agricultural finance to owners of, say, less than 25ha, and puts a small tax on unproductive land.

SUCH examples of the emerging reality — a reality in which changes to basic government policies will spark immense shifts of social and economic advantage — can be multiplied indefinitely.

The question then arises whether it will help matters if the new government is specifically permitted, by the bill of rights, to embark on programmes of affirmative action in order to "undo existing inequalities", as the DP version puts it, or if the bill of rights

puts on the new government a constitutional obligation to provide to every citizen the food and water necessary to survival, the shelter from the elements, basic health care, a basic education, and a clean and healthy environment.

The questions which arise are obvious: what is basic health care? What is basic education? Does a site-and-service housing scheme provide adequate shelter? Lawyers rejoice!

The courts will have much to decide, including the vexed question of who can claim to have been a victim of apartheid? The explanatory notes that accompany the DP bill of rights confess that, "however unpalatable" it may be, the elimination of inequality will require "the same criteria for differentiation as those which brought about the inequality".

THE exquisite delicacy of this language does not quite conceal its intent: reverse discrimination must be applied on the basis of Verwoerdian racial classifications. And what, I wonder, will Mr Leon do if I claim to have been a victim of apartheid (as indeed, in many small ways, I was): put a pencil through my hair? Brutal language, you see, can expose meaning quite as well as delicate language can hide it.

There is another question: if the ANC fails, as it surely will, to meet the demands of the people for the entitlements promised to them by the bill of rights, and is thrown out of office, will the PAC then be entitled to discriminate against those who have grown rich under the ANC? Or do only inequalities which derive from apartheid inhibit the full enjoyment of liberty?

Such questions drive Mr Leon into fits of muscularity, but constitutional questions are not answered by Rambo rhetoric. The decision to load a bill of rights, which is a guarantee of freedom, with racially defined social agendas is a radical departure from the views which Mr Leon and I once shared.

KEN OWEN

What guarantee against tyranny?

THIS being a time for matters constitutional, I ask you to ponder this: Why has no other country adopted the constitution of the United States? Could it be because it is too "liberal" and contains too many checks and balances against government excesses?

Second, how does a nation defend its constitution? As a first resort, one looks to the courts — assuming the judges are sufficiently honest and unintimidated to rule against the government.

Then, however, comes the big question: what if the government chooses to ignore the ruling of the court and persists in its unconstitutional actions?

In theory, the police (and, ultimately, the army) could be brought in against the government to force it to honour the court's ruling.

In practice, police and armies tend not to bite the hand that feeds them — and when they do act against their governments, they do so by staging a coup which invariably leads to a military dictatorship. At this stage, the constitution is no longer worth the paper it's written on.

So we come to the Second Amendment of the US constitution — which, contrary to popular belief, does not give the people the right to bear arms.

What it does is to deny the government the right to infringe

the people's common law right to bear arms — in other words, it is there to stop the government from disarming its people.

This for a very good reason: ultimately, it is the people who are the final defenders of the constitution; it is up to the people to defend themselves against government tyranny when all else fails; a disarmed people against a government holding the monopoly of armed power are not free citizens — they are helpless subjects.

The Second Amendment is what makes the United States constitution binding and enforceable.

I ask those busy negotiating our future: what constitutional guarantees against government tyranny do you propose? — IAN LEHR, Cape Town

Proposed peace force too pricey

BY BRENDAN SEERY

SOUTH Africa cannot afford the joint, independent armed "peace-keeping force" which has been proposed as a way of stopping violence during elections.

To deploy a meagre 3 000 such troops on a round-the-clock basis would cost almost R1 billion — and that number wouldn't even be enough to cover each of the 7 000 ballot boxes expected to be used in the polling.

Those troops would only barely replace the estimated 7 000 or so SADF personnel currently in the townships, and their numbers do not take into account the likely spiral in violence as polling day approaches.

The monetary cost of the force could not come out of the current Defence Budget, which has been slashed in rand and real terms.

And it is highly unlikely an international peacekeeping force of any substantial size will be offered to South Africa, as was done by the United Nations in Namibia's transition to independence in 1989/90.

The proposal for the peacekeeping force was made by the multiparty conference's Technical Committee on violence last week.

Sources close to the negotiations said later that it was suggested that selected members of the SADF, Umkhonto we Sizwe, the SAP and Apla could be involved in the force, and that they would be placed under a new, joint and impartial, command structure.

ANC legal adviser Matthew Phosa believes the peacekeeping force would be the "first force of intervention" which would "quell violence without fear or favour".

Challenge of educating the people

■ **Getting it right:** Voting's a new ball-game for millions, and it's vital they understand the mechanisms. CARDS is doing the teaching.

By SONTI MASEKO

I'M 28, yet because of my colour I had never seen a polling booth - until recently.

"What is this?" Terry Oakley-Smith asked me. I stared at the booth for a long time and confessed I had no idea. Clearly, I need voter education - and so do millions of others.

With an election only 10 months away, political parties and scores of other interest-groups are engaged in a race against time to reach millions of people to teach them about voting.

But voter education has proved a complicated process, often met with suspicion, consternation and fear, as an independent consultancy, Career and Resource Development Strategy (CARDS) discovered.

Oakley-Smith, with colleagues Stanley Bongwe and Bongani Ndaba, formed a 10-man team that has run workshops for companies educating workers on the "what, why and how" of voting - on what South Africans will be experiencing in the next 10 months and how they should go about exercising their right to vote.

Yet even those who have voted before often still do not how to vote, said Oakley-Smith. "We have never had a democratic election; people have been voting for a party rather than experiencing the democratic process in action."

CARDS has already begun its voter education programme, called "Your Right to Vote", which is being used by two major companies: Transnet for its 75 000 workforce and the Sentrachem group of companies.

Tolerance

Bongwe says teaching voter education on the shop-floor has fostered a spirit of tolerance and reconciliation. The training is carried out on a non-racial basis and can be taught to voters from any background.

Only a year ago, when CARDS approached companies with their package there was not much interest.

"But after we made it clear the programme was educational and not political or controversial, they realised it was worthwhile."

Unions too, first regarded their package with suspicion, fearing that they represented "big-boss" interests and that it was a ploy to manipulate workers.

But the suspicions from both sides have worked in the programme's favour, helping to ensure it is objective and completely non-partisan.

CARDS explains that they have gone to great lengths to ensure impartiality, from the choice of colours on their posters to hypothetical parties and manifestos in a mock election that is held during the workshops.

Their training manual is backed by a supporting video which explains why it is the duty of every citizen to vote, how voting is done and how a democracy works.

"It is important that we avoid a situation similar to Angola, where 40 percent of the votes were spoilt papers. There should be a clear, decisive result which will prevent disputes," Ndaba said.

CARDS estimates that every worker who receives voter education will teach seven others; and they are confident that in this way they will reach even more people. The Cards programme has also received the backing of political organisations - added proof of its non-partisan status.

Party support takes a dive

By NORMAN WEST

THE latest opinion poll conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council has confirmed findings that support for the NP and most other political parties has taken a dive.

The percentage of confused voters — who either refused to

name their choice of party or said they did not know which one they would vote for — increased from nine percent in October last year to 11 percent in February.

The February percentage support for parties among all

voters (excluding the TBVC states) declined in the case of the NP from 23 percent to 21; the ANC from 44 to 37; the IFP from nine to eight; the DP remained at two percent and the CP at four percent. The PAC's popularity remained at one percent.

SCORES OF doomed MPs will be scrambling for work in the new government

1000 seeking next gravy train

■ Political patronage:

The Government wants seats for up to 1 000 well-paid elected politicians on the new South African gravy train. This could cost the taxpayer R350 million.

BY DAVID BREIER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

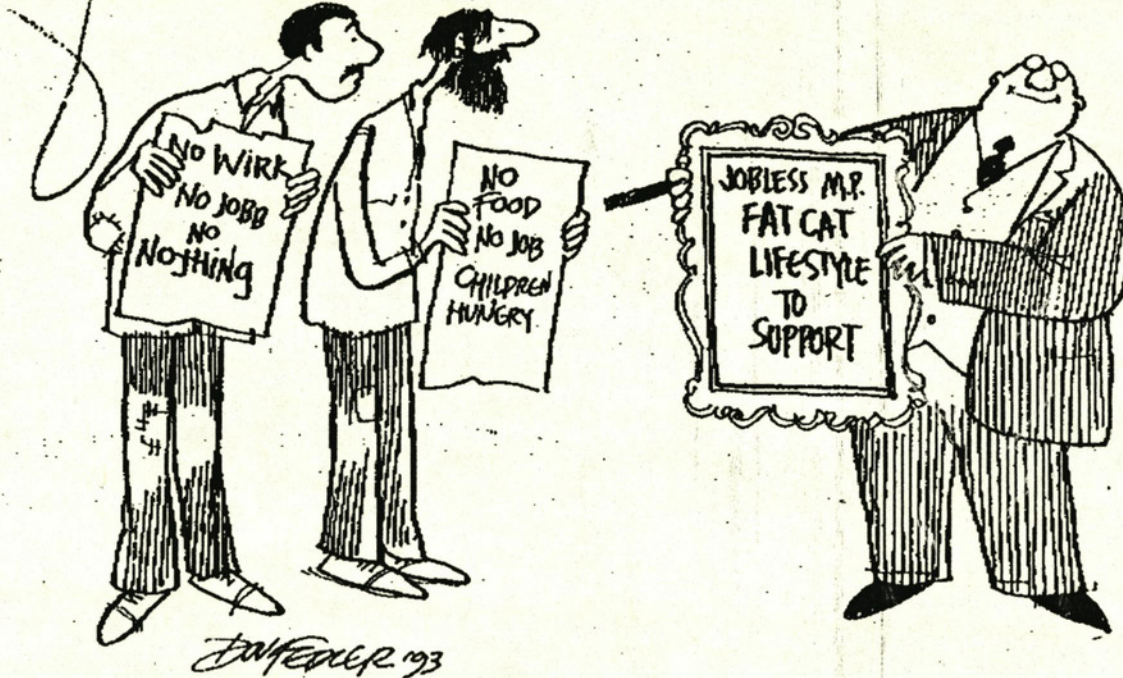
AS pre-election fears grow among almost certainly doomed National Party MPs, the Nats want a vast army of paid politicians in the new South Africa next year to ensure as many jobs for pals as possible.

Government negotiators are arguing for 400 MPs in a new lower house of Parliament, elected from a national list of candidates, plus another 200 MPs in a new upper house or senate, elected regionally.

This would make a total of 600 paid politicians elected next year in the central Parliament of the interim government due to last for five years until 1999.

In addition, Government wants regional parliaments in about seven regions to be elected in next year's elections.

Even if these regional parliaments are small, averaging about 50 members each, it would all add up to a total of about 1 000 elected public representatives at the central and regional levels.



At present there are 308 MPs in the tricameral Parliament, costing the taxpayer R114 million this year for salaries, allowances and other perks including housing and cars.

Nat proposals for up to a 1 000 elected politicians could cost the taxpayer at least R350 million a year for salaries and perks.

The African National Congress, on the other hand, believes there should be a total of 400 MPs in the new interim Parliament even if there are two houses.

And the ANC says the question of whether regional parliaments should

be elected next year still has to be negotiated. The ANC believes this should rather be left to the second elections some time later.

If the Nats draw 20 percent of the vote next year, they would have only 80 MPs out of 400. But if there are as many as a thousand regional and central MPs, the party would be able to dish out patronage to some 200 politicians.

With Nat support now said to be at a low point — only 26 percent among whites — even recent forecasts that the NP would win 20 percent in next year's nonracial poll

appear optimistic.

Panic about losing their jobs is fuelling the growing rebelliousness in the ranks of the 167 white, coloured and Indian Nat MPs in the tricameral Parliament.

The NP is coming unstuck as the party loses its ability to dispense patronage. But the more jobs for politicians there are, the more patronage the Nats can dish out to keep the members happy.

The government's plans to create hundreds of new jobs for MPs next year has been met with derision.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus,

said: "If it is a plan to create the biggest possible gravy train to carry as many of their current MPs as possible to prevent tension and conflict within their own ranks, the ANC rejects the plan with contempt."

Niehaus said the ANC proposed a total of only 400 MPs for the entire country in the proposed constituent assembly — 200 elected on a national and 200 on a regional basis.

He said the NP plan for 600 central MPs and hundreds more in regional parliaments would continue the rationale of past NP governments which benefited a selected elite and not the majority.

Democratic Party national chairman Ken Andrew said the Nat numbers were "unnecessarily high".

He said the NP had a record of creating new jobs for unemployed politicians. When the Senate was abolished in 1980, the NP introduced a new system of indirectly elected and nominated MPs and set up the President's Council for ex-senators.

"Given the fact that they're on the skids and there is demoralisation and panic in their ranks, they may well try to extend the length of the gravy train to stop the party crumbling faster than it is," he said.

Andrew said because of the size and diversity of the population South Africa needed more MPs than a compact homogeneous country. But the numbers the Nats were talking about were unnecessarily high.

"You need the lowest number of people you can have to do the job decently," he said.

Man~~X~~ dies at IFP funeral

By JOHANNES NGCOBO
and WILLIAM MALOPE

ONE person was shot dead yesterday when he was shot in the head in Katlehong, on the East Rand, during the funeral of IFP Thokoza branch secretary Julia Mtshali.

Mrs Mtshali was abducted from her home in Katlehong and necklaced on May 24 during a week-long orgy of violence after ANC marchers clashed with IFP supporters on May 22.

Yesterday's shooting occurred at 2.20pm when a group of IFP mourners marched through Katlehong from Huntersfield stadium to Schoeman cemetery.

According to one version of events, IFP mourners in the procession went into a house in Letsoho Street in Katlehong and dragged out one of the occupants, Thomas Sithole, and shot him in the head.

Mr Sithole was rushed to Natalspruit hospital by the Red Cross.

Mourners then invaded another house in the same area, opening fire, it is claimed. No one was injured.

However, an eyewitness, who declined to be named, said shots had been fired from the house at a minibus carrying some mourners, but no one in the vehicle had been hit.

Police spokesman Major Eugene Opperman confirmed that a man was wounded when shots were fired from a crowd of mourners heading for the cemetery.

'Terror' group has ANC links

By MBULELO SOMPETHA

THE ANC stands to lose more members in the western Transvaal township of Khutsong because of a reign of terror in the area by an ANC branch group known as "Shenxa" (meaning "remove").

The group targets Congress of South African Students, ANC Youth League and ANC Women's League activists who reject its undemocratic practices.

Khutsong residents are concerned because the

PWV ANC leadership has so far not intervened, even though it has been informed about the group's violent activities.

According to ANC Women's League branch organiser Nonzima Mkhlasibe, about 100 ANC members have given up their memberships and more are threatening to do so if the group is not disbanded.

ANC national spokesman Mr Ronnie Mamoepa said the ANC was investigating the claims.