

Let Driefontein people remain

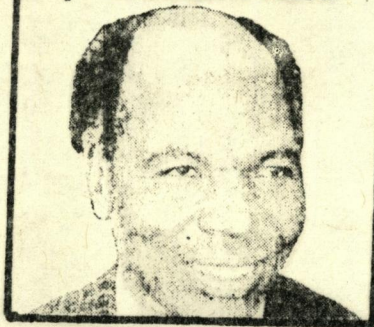
You may recall that in my last column I mentioned the painful trauma caused by the endless racially biased resettlement of people in South Africa. On April 2, a South African policeman's bullet effectively emphasised these sentiments when a defenceless Mr Saul Mkhize, a Driefontein community leader, was shot dead on the grounds of the local community school.

The rest of the story is by now part of South Africa's continuous tragic history.

The international community, including the Western countries with fully fledged embassies in South Africa, joined in voicing their condemnation of the killing of Mr Mkhize.

Sad, however, is the realisation that apart from the so-called protest voices and resolutions of protest, there is virtually not much that we shall receive from the international

MY VIEW by Gibson Thula



community. After Mr Mkhize was buried at Driefontein on April 16, we sadly noticed that a day later it was business as usual in the suburbs and cocktail circuits.

Again in Pretoria, Cape Town and in world capitals it was business as usual with the so-called "constructive engagement" programmes unaffected. Is it true then that Mr Mkhize has just become another statistic in the tragic racial history of South Africa, except to his people?

There is no doubt that the people of Driefontein in particular are obliged to erect a befitting memorial tombstone, because he died defenceless fighting a good, peaceful battle for the people.

We are tempted to conclude that it is business as usual in Cape Town, Pretoria and elsewhere because the South African Government is conscious of the fact that in the final analysis, the international community regards the minerals of South Africa and the Cape sea route as more important than the human rights of the disadvantaged people of South Africa.

The least we can expect from the Christian Government of South Africa is to accept that the death of Saul Mkhize should gain a permanent reprieve for his people at Driefontein and others threatened elsewhere in the country. Will we be Christian enough and allow his soul to rest in peace?

Incidents such as the killing of Mr Mkhize and others who perished under similar circumstances will ensure that the present South African Government does not win the present tough battle for the minds of millions in the world — especially here in South and Southern Africa.

● Gibson Thula is chairman of strategy for the Inkatha movement and principal urban representative of the kwaZulu Government.

Sunday Times 2/5/83

Eat his words

LESOTHO may yet live to regret exchanging those dedicated, hard-working Taiwanese agricultural advisers for communist Chinese diplomats.

Chief Leabua's new guests come from a country which cannot

even deal with its own horrendous farming problems.

It may be third-worldly fashionable in Africa to switch affections from Taipei to Peking, but the change has rarely been accompanied by benefits you can eat.



Chief Leabua

Mob rule vs the people

WHEN A usually quiet, middle class township becomes the victim of violence and mob rule it is time, not so much for the police to take action, but for the community itself. In Lamontville, Natal, yesterday a teacher, recording the funeral of a community leader who had been shot dead by an unknown hand, was himself hacked to death. It is rumoured that because the teacher had a tape recorder he was suspected of being a Security Policeman. This sort of incident, usually sparked by a handful of irresponsibly wild radicals, does black politics enormous harm.

Lamontville's recent record is a cause for deep concern. The community leader buried yesterday was apparently shot because he was leading the community's fight against a 63

percent rent increase. Only days ago the home of the chairman of the community council was stoned because he was suspected of approving the rent rise. On Saturday, rumour has it, a man was shot because he was suspected of sheltering the chairman.

One can sympathise with local residents and their political factions: the chosen representatives are subservient to the unpopular white-run administration boards and until urban blacks get more local autonomy, frustrations will run high. But mob rule is a poison that can kill their own structured society. Lamontville residents must for their own sakes, and for the sake of the national community, reject the gangsters of both political sides — without taking the law into their own hands.

Yes, yes!

ABOUT R1 million later delegates to the UN-sponsored conference on Namibia have packed their Eiffel Tower souvenirs and gone home in total agreement for the first time. They agreed that there was nothing they could do. Many experts could have told them that in advance. In fact, Foreign Minister Pik Botha did so in ringing tones. He was par-

ticularly cross because the convening of the conference rubbed in the UN's pro-Swapo bias. On that, too, there seems to be UNanimity. Now Administrator General Dr Willie van Niekerk predicts some sort of negotiating agreement within the next few weeks. All in all, dare we hope that events in Namibia are taking an agreeable turn?

recorder

Youths hack man to death at funeral

Natal Mercury, Monday, May 2, 1983

By ALEX MAPHALALA
African Affairs Reporter

A HIGH school teacher was hacked and stoned to death while mourners were listening to the speeches and sermons delivered at the funeral of Mr Harrison 'Sheriff' Dube, a community leader in Lamontville, who was shot dead by unknown assailants last week.



After the killing ... the body of Mr Mpikwana Khanyile covered with newspapers.

Mr Mpikwana Khanyile, a teacher at Lamontville High School, was apparently suspected by the crowd of being a Security Branch policeman because he was seen carrying a tape recorder during the funeral proceedings.

The teacher was chased by youths along a lane and finally cornered and hacked and stoned to death.

People covered his body with newspapers until it was removed by police.

Another man was killed on Saturday night. It is believed he was suspected of offering refuge to Mr Moonlight Gasa, the mayor, whom residents say approved of recent rent increases imposed by the Administration Board.

Burning

Family members told the Mercury that Mr D Siwela heard a noise outside his home and discovered that his car was burning.

He went to tell a neighbour but when he returned he collapsed and later died. Family members said there was blood on his face.

Mr Dube's funeral was predominantly an ANC affair and the coffin was

Earlier youths in ANC uniforms searched the roof of the Lamontville Community Hall, looking for tape recorders which they suspected had been installed by security police.

Hundreds stood on the roof watching for the police. The police watched the proceedings from the surrounding hills through binoculars.

Mr Gasa's house was vacated. He is believed to be under police protection.

T shirts

Placards were displayed and many mourners wore T shirts bearing Mr Dube's photograph.

Also displayed was a huge picture of Mr Griffiths Mxenge, a Durban lawyer, who was killed by unknown people.

The funeral was attended by people from as far away as Soweto. The Umlazi Taxi's Association carried the mourners free of charge. DTMB buses were withdrawn after two buses had been reduced to ashes earlier in the week.

Sub hunt hots up

STAVANGER—Norwegian frigates yesterday fired 12 missiles and a depth charge at a suspected foreign submarine believed to be lurking at the mouth of Hardanger Fjord. — (Sapa-Reuter)



Mr Dube's coffin, draped in ANC colours, is carried to his grave.