

Kgame slams UDF, Azapo

CLAIMS that unrest in the Vaal Triangle took place because residents there were partly ignorant of the functions of the Black Local Authority's Act were described as "a pinnacle of myopia and ignorance" by two black political organisations.

The allegations were made in a statement released this week in Pretoria by Mr Steve Kgame, president of the Urban Councils Association of South Africa (UCASA), to endorse the findings of the Van der Walt Commission into the recent riots in the Vaal. The statement further stated that not only residents of that area were ignorant but that the situation was worsened by the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Azanian

Peoples Organisation (Azapo).

Mr Kgame accused the UDF and Azapo of having exploited the fact that many black people were unfamiliar with the running of municipalities "for their own short term political gain."

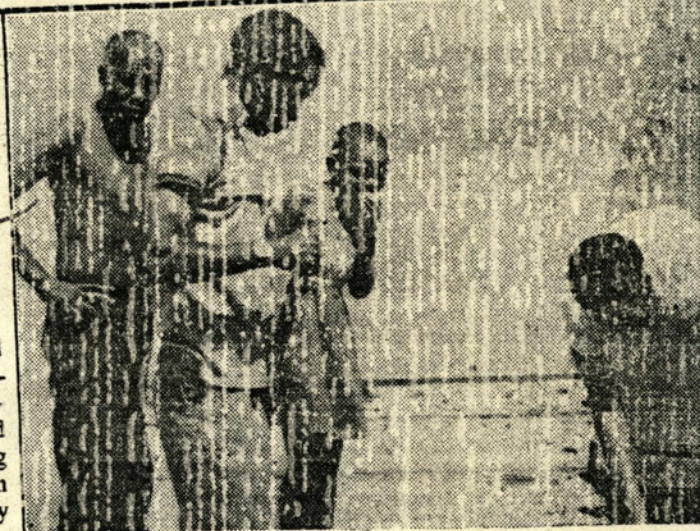
"Instead of the senseless attacks on councillors, which merely serve to divide and confuse the community, these organisations should be striving for political accommodation of blacks at other governmental levels," Mr Kgame said.

Reacting to these allegations, Mr Popo Molefe, UDF general secretary said: "There is none as blind as those who refuse to see. To believe that it is out of ignorance that the people of

the Vaal rejected dummy councils is to believe that it is out of ignorance the oppressed masses are rejecting white minority rule. In fact, the statement by Ucaso represents the pinnacle of myopia and ignorance."

Mr Molefe went on to ask if it was the fault of his organisation that the Lekoa Town Council was forced to raise rent and service charges because of not being financially viable? Representation at local level, he emphasized, was meaningless without democracy at the central government level.

Mr Amos Masondo, publicity secretary of the Soweto Civic Association (SCA), said, that the people were ignorant was untrue.



Big booze row brews

By LEN MASEKO

THE owners of the first three legal taverns in Soweto have shot into the centre of a controversy — only weeks after being granted licences for their businesses.

Some bottle store owners, who refused to be named for fear of reprisals, have accused the three taverners of not complying with certain requirements for an on-consumption licence.

The three are Mr Lucky Michaels, National Tavern Association (NTA) chairman, NTA president Mr Peggy Senne and Mr David Mngemane. All were granted on-consumption licences by the Liquor Board recently.

The liquor outlet owners complained that, contrary to the Liquor Board requirements, the taverners were selling:

- Spirits in "nips", although the Liquor Board required that these brands be sold in "tots";
- Take-aways — a right which is reserved to off-consumption licence holders; and

"This is unfair competition," cried one store owner, pointing out at the same time that the said tavern owners were

now receiving their supplies direct from the breweries. As a result the taverners undercut their liquor prices so that the difference between "bottle store prices and theirs (taverners) is very minimal," the businessman said.

Liquor Board chairman Mr Tommy Vorster warned that taverners found not complying with the Liquor Act requirements risked prosecution, even having their licences cancelled. It was a criminal offence to flout Liquor Law requirements.

As for the direct-from-brewery-purchase accusation, Mr Vorster said this was within the law. "There is nothing stopping a licensed taverner buying his stock from a wholesaler or brewery."

Reacting to the allegations, an irate Mr Michaels said: "Bottle-store owners have lived a life of greed for too long. Now that the shebeeners are realising their dream, the bottle-store owners are beginning to feel the pinch.

"The accusations are not true, of course. We know some of them bootleg on Sundays,

contrary to the Liquor Board requirements. It is not surprising that they are starting this type of mudslinging," the NTA chairman said.

Mr Michaels said the bottlestore owners had fallen all over themselves in a rush to buy State-owned liquor outlets, put up for sale two years ago. "Now they

are beginning to feel the pinch, because they bought those outlets at ridiculous prices," he added.

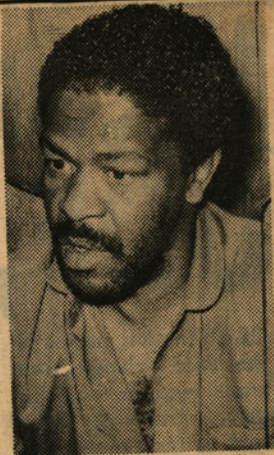
The cold relations between the NTA and bottlestore owners may plunge even further in the near future considering that shebeeners intend to form their own liquor distribution busi-

ness soon. The NTA membership has made it clear that they buy stocks only from their distribution business.

This development may result in a tough price war — which will benefit the consumer in the process — as the two parties grapple to stake a claim in South Africa's liquor market estimated

at R800-million a year. Blacks account for 80 percent of the trade.

In Soweto alone, the liquor market is worth R250-million a year. Estimates are that blacks buy 60 percent of their liquor outside the townships and 40 percent inside. It is this imbalance that the NTA hopes to change in future.



Mr MICHAELS: "Allegations untrue."