



The Argus

LIBERTY
AND PRESS
FREEDOM

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President with pimples!

MR NELSON MANDELA says he is serious about votes for 14-year-olds.

Only 14-year-olds will take him seriously.

Few suggestions for inclusion in the negotiating process will compare for absurdity with the ANC leader's call for the voting age to be lowered to 14.

Part of the motivation is that some ANC-supporting youths left school at the age of 12 to join Umkhonto we Sizwe, and that those who had been at the "forefront of the battle" could not be denied the vote.

No-one will gainsay that minors were involved in "the struggle", but the notion of South Africa embracing the adolescent vote in normal circumstances is beyond serious contemplation. After all, extending the vote could have mind-blowing consequences. The prospect of an ageing but respected and experienced president is not uncommon, but the notion of a pimply 14-year-old head of state in puberty is something else.

By no stretch of the imagination can it be said that 14-year-olds generally qualify for mature sense of judgment, particularly in matters of national importance. Mr Mandela, we suspect, has something else in mind in this crusade for the teenage vote, notably that the ANC is concerned about the allegiance of the youth brigade. Too often of late have the youth defied their elderly leaders, bucked the organisation and followed their own course of action. Thus nothing is more transparent than holding out the vote to minors.

Mr Mandela says 14 is the legal voting age in seven countries, though he has failed to name them. Even that represents a tiny minority in the world community. The ANC leader says he is "not pessimistic" that consensus would be reached at the multi-party forum on his proposal. The only consensus that can be reached, however, is that the idea is nonsense.

Another bloody chapter

YET again another tragedy has resulted from ill-considered mass action. The latest outrage — in Thokoza at the weekend — left 13 people dead and more than 60 wounded.

The right to march and demonstrate peacefully is undisputed — but any decision to go ahead with this form of protest must be tempered by sound judgment.

An aggravating factor this time seems to have been the ANC's insistence on marching through Thokoza township, near a known Inkatha stronghold. The police asked the organisers to alter their route to avoid provocation and possible clashes between rival supporters. But the ANC decided to press ahead — and the worst happened.

Was the march really necessary? What happened has immeasurably worsened the situation. The area is now seething with tension and bitterness.

There will be tears, of course. Regrettably, tragically, it is too late. Another bloody chapter is written.

As usual, everyone is blaming everybody else. Both the ANC and IFP have called for an independent inquiry and an end to violence.

The Thokoza tragedy should never have happened.

THE ARGUS 24 May 1973

Just a big NO!

Staff Reporters

DEFINITELY, but definitely no, was the response of the vast majority of people who took part in the Argus phone-in poll on Mr Nelson Mandela's suggestion that 14-year-olds be given the vote.

Of the 455 people who called, only 11 supported his view and most of his opponents called Mr Mandela a "senile old man" who is "desperate and crazy for power".

Mr Simon Jones of Fish Hoek said: "The idea is absurd. Mr Mandela is being irresponsible and dishonest and his statement smacks of a hidden agenda. He is conceding to pressure from the youth and not thinking of the broad population of the country."

A woman, who only identified herself as "very cross

from Tamboerskloof", said: "Is De Klerk a man or a mouse? Mandela gets everything every time. Why doesn't he give new-born babies the vote?"

Mr Martin Coomer of Rondebosch said: "Why not give it to four-year-olds — they might make some sense of all the nonsense in the minds of some politicians."

"The political spectrum is so full of immature, power-hungry, uncompromising, bickering and intolerant

brats. Why don't they bring the age down to 10?" said Mr Rory Stumpf of Observatory.

"Allow 14 to 18-year-olds to vote, but refuse all over 70. Then see what Mandela says," said a Blaawbergrand man.

A Green Point woman said the whole country was at risk if our fate was left in the hands of 14-year-olds. "How can we allow schoolchildren to run our country?" she asked.

Mr Clive Munro of Durbanville said: "I've paid 40% of my salary to the government. And now they want little terrorists who don't earn a cent to tell us how to run our lives."

"Mandela is crazy. How is he going to convince overseas investors to invest in a country run by children?" Mr Munro asked.

Mrs Belinda Davids of Mitchell's Plain said her 13-year-old son was "very immature, not even interested in girls" and did not discuss politics with his friends.

Mr Jeannette Wilkenson of Bellville: "I can't believe my

ears. I thought it was something like an April Fool's joke. The children are just getting back to school and now Mandela is giving them another reason to go back on the streets!"

Of the few callers who supported the right of 14-year-olds to vote none was as brave as Wyomia Mouwers, 15, of Colorado Park.

"We should be allowed to vote as we are more mature and politically active than most adults. Politically I am more educated than my own

mother, but she is allowed to vote."

Mr Clem van Wyk of Lotus River said the majority of 14-year-olds in the country suffered under apartheid and fought back even when adults sat back in the comfort of their homes.

"The oppression taught them what politics is all about and you cannot compare them to the youths of other countries. They have earned the right to vote."

Ms Olga Blaauw, an Elsies River mother of two, said:

"Even youngsters of 11 get shot at. Fourteen-year-olds are quite aware of what is going on, of right and wrong."

Mr Omar Abrahams, 18, of Mitchell's Plain said: "The marginalised youth has a far better understanding of the political realities than a lot of adult voters. We feel the consequences. Our teachers are on strike because of government misspending and retrenchments."

Mr Joseph Harison of Sea Point, 71, said intelligence

rather than age should be a criterion.

"A man can be 40 and an idiot or imbecile. And a 12-year-old whose father had been killed can take responsibility for a whole family," he said.

Some of the callers felt it was a shrewd move by Mr Mandela to use his statement as a ploy to force the government to reduce the voting age from 18 to 16 which would accommodate the "lost generation".

Thokoza: Township still tense

IFP, ANC want probe into shooting

JOHANNESBURG—Both the ANC PWV region and Inkatha yesterday called for an independent commission of inquiry into the Thokoza shootings on Saturday in which 13 people died and more than 60 were injured.

Police yesterday confirmed the township was still tense as nearly 300 Inkatha supporters marched from the hostel to a nearby bridge to remove anti-Inkatha graffiti painted by marchers on the way to Thokoza.

Both organisations said an investigation was needed because it was unclear who fired the shots.

Police spokesman Capt Wikus Weber said yesterday senior police officers were conducting a high level criminal investigation. Two marchers were arrested and six AK-47 rifles confiscated. Another AK-47 was taken from one of the marshals, he said.

Capt Weber could not comment on the police action because requests urging a route change and the return of Inkatha supporters to their hostel were not adhered to.

An emergency meeting of the Wits/Vaal regional peace committee is to take place tomorrow to review events which led to the shootings.

ANC PWV regional committee member Mondli Gunguele told a media conference yesterday it was not clear what had triggered the shooting,

Mercury Correspondent

while an Inkatha statement said the conflict erupted between ANC marchers and Thokoza residents.

Inkatha spokesman Themba Khoza said its investigations showed the ANC march was planned as an attack on Inkatha supporters. He said that although there were more direct routes, the marchers chose Khumalo Street because it passed Inkatha hostels and the house of Mrs Gertrude Mzizi, a key witness in the trial of an ANC member allegedly involved in the September 1991 Thokoza massacre.

Mrs Mzizi's house was the only one in the street attacked by marchers.

Although the attack on Mrs Mzizi's house followed the conflict between marchers and hostel dwellers, Mr Khoza said she was the target because a slogan reading "Gertrude Mzizi is a dog" was painted on a bridge on the way into Thokoza.

Mr Khoza added there had been a serious breakdown in communications as Inkatha had not been informed of the march, as determined by the local peace agreement.

ANC PWV regional branch chairman Tokyo Sexwale said yesterday the provocation had always come from the hostel, which had been described as a "flashpoint" by the Goldstone commission.

Political violence

FIGURES for political violence countrywide covering the first three months of this year indicate a sharp downward trend.

In the latest edition of "Fast Facts" bulletin, the SA Institute of Race Relations said while the daily average of people killed in political violence was 10 in 1990, seven in 1991 and eight in 1992, the period from January to March this year saw a daily fatality average of below 4.5.

By Siza Ntshakala

By April this year, 15 545 people had been killed since the outbreak of violence in September 1984.

"This period has been the first in which monthly fatality totals have consistently been lower than 150 since the second half of 1989. Violence continues to be concentrated in parts of KwaZulu/Natal as well as the Witwatersrand."

person who was never understood

A fresh view of Chris Hani

Sowetan 24-05-93

■ Militant also championed feminist movement:

By Sizakele Kooma

WE have heard of Chris Hani the MK commander, the Latin master and peace-maker.

The latest issue of *Speak* magazine tells us about Chris Hani the feminist.

The heart-warming story, as told by colleague and friend Thenjiwe Mthintso of the SACP, again opens our eyes to the nature and character of the man who was branded a militant.

Among the things Mthintso says in the article is that Hani was one of the very few leaders in the ANC, SACP and MK who actively fought against women's oppression; he was a member of the SACP's gender committee, which he insisted should not consist of women only, and he also shared chores with his wife and children at home.

Other informative stories in the issue include the contributions of the women of Eritrea, East Africa, in a war that defeated the Mengistu Haile Mariam regime of Ethiopia and the plight of women and children caught in the cross-fire in a brutal war in the Natal Midlands.

Are stokvels meant to bring together women for gossip and fun? No, say members of these groups in another story. They have managed to pay off their hire purchase debts and bury their dead through the financial assistance of others in the group.

Planning on leaving that oppressive,



Chris Hani

Hani was one of the few leaders in the ANC who actively fought against women's oppression

lying, cheating man you married? Helpful information on how you should go about it is also part of the June package of *Speak* magazine.

16/1/11

Bid for 14-year-olds 'clearly in self-interest of ANC'

NATAL MERCURY 24/05/93

Row over Mandela's plan for young votes

CAPE TOWN—It was dangerous to suggest that 14-year-olds should get the vote and the National Party was concerned that the ANC and SACP were preparing to "snatch power using children".

This was said yesterday by Natal NP leader George Bartlett, who added that statements by ANC Midlands leader Harry Gwala and ANC leader Nelson Mandela had sparked concerns that the ANC/SACP alliance was preparing for a "Khmer Rouge-like" option to snatch power by putting children "into the battle".

"They're inciting children to bloodshed," he said.

Mr Mandela said at a rally at Newcastle at the weekend that the voting age should be

**By Donwald Pressly
& Steve Matthewson**

reduced from 18 to 14 and Mr Gwala said last week that he would not die for freedom, he would only kill for it.

Mr Mandela later indicated that the ANC would put its demand at multi-party talks and there were signs that a compromise could be reached.

He first raised the demand of voting eligibility at a rally in Dundee on Saturday, saying that the youth had been at the "forefront of the struggle" and some had "paid the highest price on the battlefield" as MK members.

Mr Bartlett said: "I believe Mr Mandela's suggestion of bringing children into the battle can be equated with communist regimes throughout the world which have done

the same.

"He is creating aspirations for these young people who should be at school learning."

Conservative Party presidents councillor Carl Werth said Mr Mandela was "obviously simply trying to increase his potential vote because he knows millions of unruly youths will support him".

Democratic Party MP for Durban Central Peter Gastrow said reducing the voting age to 14 was clearly in the self-interest of the ANC, which was more likely to attract the vote of the angry youth.

Speaking at a press conference in Newcastle after his whistle-stop tour of Northern Natal, Mr Mandela said he would meet IFP president Mangosuthu Buthelezi on the violence regardless of the ANC's pre-conditions for the

meeting if Zulu king Goodwill Zwelithini facilitated the meeting.

Speaking to about 10 000 people at a rally in Madadeni outside Newcastle earlier in the day, he called on children to return to school and study, following the education crisis of the past two weeks.

Mr Mandela set the electioneering trail by telling an Indian and white entrepreneurial audience the ANC's alliance with the Communist Party was valid "only up to the overthrow of white minority rule" at the ballot box.

He portrayed the symbiotic relationship between the two parties as a pragmatic alliance of potential antagonists, comparing it to the pact between the West and the Soviet Union in World War 2.

THE ARGUS 24 MAY 1993

WHAT A PSYCHIATRIST HAS TO SAY

Staff Reporter

AT fourteen, most children are wrestling with puberty and are hardly ready for the vote.

This was the response of a psychiatrist and a clinical psychologist asked to comment on the proposal to lower the minimum voting age to 14.

"A 14-year-old does not have the intellectual maturity to make a rational decision about how to vote," a psychiatrist said.

A person of that age was in mid-adolescence, extremely vulnerable, irrespective of culture, and heavily influenced by parental opinion.

"Such a person is not in a position to make a reasoned decision about something as significant as a political vote."

Even giving 18-year-olds the vote should happen in a system with an educational franchise qualification.

The psychiatrist suggested Standard Six as a minimum educational qualification, but with 18 as the minimum age for voters.

"Votes for people of 14 is an extraordinary idea. I do not believe there is another country in the world where people younger than 18 have the franchise, and certainly not a third world country

such as ours," he said.

The clinical psychologist said a child of 14 was hardly out of puberty — "a time of high emotion, when the child can be easily influenced and led".

In law, teenagers were minors.

"People cannot be trusted with the vote until they are intellectually mature, reasonably well-educated, and emotionally stable.

"It is generally accepted a person of 14 is not mature by any stretch of the imagination and cannot be regarded as informed or sophisticated enough to have the vote."

Asked whether 18 was a

suitable age, the psychologist said it could serve as an "absolute minimum" but 21 was more suitable.

Twenty-one was the age people were eligible to sign contracts.

● Until the age of seven, children cannot be prosecuted because the law assumes they are incapable of criminal intent.

From seven until 14, the State must prove an accused minor is capable of criminal intent, or the child cannot be prosecuted.

From 14, capability of criminal intent is assumed and liability to prosecution is automatic.

THE ARGUS 24 MAY 1993

NEW SOUTH AFRICA

P O Box 56, Cape Town, 8000

No representation without taxation

LET me say at the outset, I am not a racist, but what I am about to say is a fact and what's fair is fair.

For generations the whites and coloureds have lived in and around Cape Town and helped to build up the city and the infrastructure of the Western Cape. Their rates and taxes were used to establish a beautiful city such as Cape Town, a city of which all of us are very proud.

Tragically, however, our fellow coloured people of the Western Cape were removed from the municipal voters' rolls, a mistake made by those then in power and a mistake which the successors of those then in power have undertaken to rectify. In other words, the coloured people who have contributed rates and taxes to build up a city such as Cape Town must surely be the first in line to lay claim to a municipal vote and to have a say in the running of the city.

But, what do we see happening now? Thousands of

"foreign" blacks — foreign to the Western Cape — have in recent years streamed into the Western Cape to such an extent that through their numbers they now demand the municipal vote and stand a good chance of taking over and running the various municipal councils within the Western Cape.

They do not and have never made any financial contribution to the well-being of the Western Cape. They merely come in from places such as Transkei and the Ciskei and squat on other people's land without wanting to pay a cent for the privilege.

They demand free housing (of which there is a huge shortage for the coloured people who should get preferential treatment), free electricity and free water. They want all other municipal services free as well. They are the main users of the free medical facilities at our provincial hospitals for which the whites and coloureds must pay taxes. They have no accountabil-

ity to anybody because they do not pay rates and taxes. They make no contribution to a city like Cape Town.

And yet, they now demand, because of their numbers and nothing else, to be given the municipal vote and thus may become councillors without accountability but able to rule over those who must foot the bill, through rates and taxes. Is this fair?

The vote which has been denied to the coloured people (as well as the blacks in Langa and Guguletu who have been in the Western Cape for generations) for so long and which they should now get back, will mean absolutely nothing as they will be outnumbered by the majority of "foreigners" who make no contribution in the form of rates and taxes.

Surely it is time for the coloured people and the blacks who have been here for generations to have a say in the running of the city such as Cape Town. After all, they pay rates and taxes. They are

not "foreigners" from beyond the borders of the Western Cape who came to squat here. They have been here for generations and deserve to have a say in the running of the city.

There is an old liberal saying which goes like this: "No taxation before representation". Agreed, but this cuts both ways: There should be no representation before taxation.

RATEPAYER

Edgemead

LOOTING

'Self-help' scheme

WE are a group of housewives who are battling to make ends meet. Therefore we have decided to take part in the next round of trashing and looting, or as we like to call it "democratic shopping".

Could the next group of marchers let us know a day or two in advance where and when, they intend to march. We have picked out a few boutiques that we fancy and we are happy to supply our own stones and bricks.

PAULA MARNITZ (Mrs)
Vredehoek

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

"Glorify thy Lord, the Most High! Who creates, then makes complete, and who measures then guides." (Holy Quran, chapter 87: 2 and 3).

This speaks four Divine Acts in relation to the universe: Creation, completion, measuring (the nature of a thing) and guiding (to its final development).

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"Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (Holy Bible, 1 Thess 5.16).

What better advice to enable us to ride the bumps of our present situation.

THE ARGUS 24 May 1993

Find a country where 14-year-olds vote,

Mandela told

MICHAEL MORRIS
Political
Correspondent

ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela has been strongly criticised in parliament for suggesting that 14-year-olds should be given the vote.

And the Democratic Party — which failed yesterday to find a single country in the world with a voting age as low as 14 — challenged Mr Mandela to produce evidence of countries which did.

DP MP Mr Roger Burrows said that an analysis of the electoral systems of 150 countries showed 19 had voting ages of 21, nine of 20, three of 19, 112 of 18, three of 17 (Seychelles, North Korea and Indonesia) and four of 16 (Brazil, Cuba, Iran and Nicaragua).

The information was gleaned from an Interparliamentary Union study published this year.

Mr Burrows, who pointed out that no countries in Africa had voting ages below 18 and that some, in fact, had voting ages of 21, said it was "surely constitutionally correct that voters

should be able to stand for the office they select".

Mr Mandela's "absurd suggestion" could not be "seriously considered".

In a sharper attack during the law and order debate, another DP MP, Mr Tony Leon said reducing the voting age to 14 would lead

to the "Cambodianisation" of South Africa.

He said he was concerned that instead of curbing the "anarchic youth", Mr Mandela was merely encouraging them.

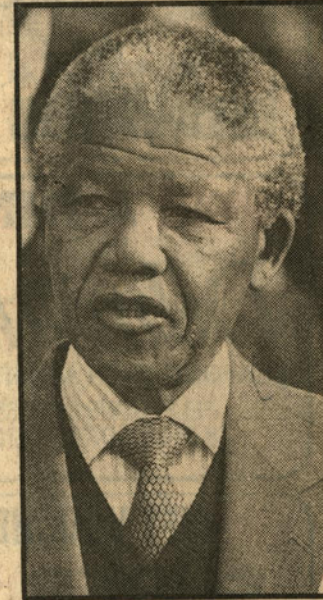
"We challenge Mr Mandela to tell us which countries in the world have voting ages of 14. The fact is there is no such thing."

National Party executive director Mr Olaus van Zyl slammed the ANC leader's call as ridiculous "political opportunism".

The NP rejected the call for a debate on the issue as it did not "deserve consideration".

Mr Van Zyl said: "By his own admission, the ANC exploited 12-year-old children by recruiting them for MK."

"Is Mr Mandela now trying to exploit children again?"



**NELSON
MANDELA**
ANC President



**ROGER
BURROWS**
of the DP

Death toll reaches 48 as police 'pick up bodies left, right and centre'

East Rand violence spreads

By Anna Louw
East Rand Bureau

Sporadic gunfire was heard throughout East Rand townships last night and today as violence continued after Saturday's ANC-IFP-SAP clashes which left 13 people shot dead and 61 injured in Tokoza.

A further 35 people, including a baby girl who was stabbed to death, have been reported killed across the East Rand since yesterday.

"We are picking up bodies left, right and centre," one East Rand policeman told The Star today.

Heavy police and SADF reinforcements were rushed into several townships yesterday afternoon and spent last night and this morning in action as factions engaged each other in various areas.

The violence spread from Tokoza to Katlehong, Vosloorus, Tembisa and the Zonk'izwe and Crossroads squatter camps.

Seven people died in Katlehong, seven in Vosloorus and two in Zonk'izwe yesterday. During this morning, police recovered 19 more bodies.

At least 15 homes were destroyed by fire and 36 others badly damaged in the township's Mavimbela Section during the night and this morning.

In a burnt-out house in Mavimbela Section police found the charred remains of four people. Nearby were two more bodies. Both had back and stab wounds.

One of the people killed in Katlehong was the superintendent of a high school in Katlehong. His house was also destroyed. Police did not name him today.

A further 13 bodies were found strewn in parts of the East Rand up until midday today.

A police spokesman said most of the deaths were caused by gunshot wounds.

Percy Dladla, a resident of Mavimbela Section, said a large crowd gathered outside houses at about midnight last night.

"There was lots of shooting and the sound of windows breaking. People were killed in the homes and their houses burnt. People trying to flee the gunfire were shot dead in the street. Many people were wounded," he told The Star today.

He said there was more violence today and many people had fled their homes.

Large numbers of troops and policemen were deployed in Tembisa after violence erupted yesterday afternoon. Police on patrol reported shots being fired at Vuzimusi hostel in Velamlambo section.

Assistance

Shots were also fired at police vehicles and a Nyala armoured vehicle was petrol-bombed and gutted.

Defence Force reinforcements from Dunnottar and other units were called in to assist the police.

A senior police spokesman said sporadic gunfire was heard near the Vuzimusi hostel throughout the night. Most of the violence is reported to have been centred on the hostel.

Reinforcements were also sent to Crossroads in Vosloorus yesterday.

Two men, one of them a policeman stationed at Jan Smuts Airport, were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Zone 14, Sebokeng in the Vaal Triangle yesterday.

The victims have been identified as Nouna Molefe (27) of Sharpeville and Constable MSA Makhene.

Police said Molefe had a bullet wound in the back of his head and was dead when found by police in the Vaal township. Makhene, who had a bullet wound below the chin, was found in the same area and rushed to the Sebokeng Hospital where he died

a few hours later.

● In Natal, two men were killed and six people wounded when unidentified gunmen attacked a minibus taxi with AK-47 assault rifles near Estcourt today.

The taxi was taking passengers from Wembezi township to work in Estcourt at 6.15 am when the gunmen struck. The taxi was passing Depot Section at the time, according to police liaison officer for the Natal Midlands, Captain Henry Budhram.

Police later found 11 bullet holes in the taxi and 15

spent AK-47 cartridges in the area nearby.

Captain Budhram said the dead men had not yet been identified. The wounded were admitted to hospital, most hit in the back or legs.

They were the driver, Nduduzi Mvelase, Nancy Mbaba, Nelisiwe Gumede, Bheki Mnguni, Bongani Mbele and Sisumo Sithole.

The taxi is believed to have come from a section of Wembezi that strongly favours the Inkatha Freedom Party, but this could not be confirmed. The motive for the attack was not known.

No reason to insist on 18 — Mandela

Lower voting age to be X tabled at talks

NEWCASTLE — ANC president Nelson Mandela said yesterday the ANC would propose to the multiparty forum that the voting age be lowered to 14, and added that he was "not pessimistic" that consensus would be reached on the issue.

After a weekend visit to northern Natal, Sapa reports he told a news conference there was no reason that the proposed age should be opposed, especially in the light of what previous voters had done to SA.

"In SA where people over 18 voted for a government which was a disaster, there's no reason for anyone to insist the voting age should be from 18."

He cited seven countries, including Brazil, Nicaragua, North Korea and Afghanistan, where the voting age was less than 18.

Mandela first raised the issue of voter eligibility at a rally in Dundee on Saturday, when he said the youth had been "forefront of the struggle" and some had "paid the highest price on the battlefield" as Umkhonto we Sizwe members.

After his speech, Home Affairs Minister Danie Schutte said Mandela's suggestion would not receive serious consideration in a civilised country. "If 14-year-old children may then vote, one may just as well ask why not 12-year-olds or even 10-year-olds. Internationally, 18 is regarded and used as the most acceptable voting age and there is no reason why the reduction of this age should even be considered in SA."

Commenting yesterday on this response, Mandela said: "The NP and the ANC have on countless occasions taken different positions on a variety of issues — I'm not pessimistic."

Our political staff reports from Cape Town that DP leader Zach de Beer called Mandela's call deeply disturbing.

"Over the last few years I have conceived a considerable admiration for Mr Mandela and his views over most matters. However, I cannot say anything but that I am deeply disturbed at what he has to say about the voting age. I have to say this seems to be a victory for political opportunism over good sense and judgment."

His criticism underlined a view shared by many observers that the call was a deliberate ploy to persuade young people the ANC had not deserted them despite its commitment to a negotiated settlement.

Political commentator Prof Sampie Terreblanche said the ANC had a vested interest in lowering the age, as the percentage of blacks younger than 18 was approaching 80%. "For the time being we should stick to 18. It would devalue the white vote further and given the sensitivity of the transition period, we should not lower the voting age now."

Mandela also said yesterday that the multiparty forum would soon announce a date for SA's first democratic elections. "We have decided to announce before the end of May an exact day for elections before April next year," he said.

BILLY PADDOCK reports that the deadline for setting an election date has forced negotiators to set aside an extra day to work through the great volume of material from the seven technical committees. The negotiating council will now meet tomorrow, on Friday and next Tuesday in the hope of achieving agreement to recom-

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Forum to decide poll date

NEWCASTLE. — African National Congress president, Mr Nelson Mandela, said yesterday a date for South Africa's first democratic elections would be announced by the multi-party forum, and not by his organisation.

Reuter earlier reported Mr Mandela, at a rally in Newcastle yesterday, announced the ANC would unilaterally announce the election date.

It stood by this report.

Clarifying the issue at a Press conference afterwards, however, Mr Mandela said a decision on the date of elections was being discussed at multi-party negotiations and the date would be announced at that forum.

The earlier Reuter report quoted Mr Mandela as saying: "We have decided to announce be-

fore the end of May an exact day for elections before April next year."

Multi-party negotiators, including those of the ANC and the government, are widely reported to have privately decided on an election date and had been expected to jointly an-

nounce it at a meeting of their leaders near Johannesburg on June 2.

The setting of an election date by the end of May is the main aim of a month of mass action orchestrated by the ANC and its allies, which has spilled over into violence. At least

20 people have been killed.

The planned June 2 announcement was considered a compromise to meet the demands of ANC supporters and the government's desire not to appear to be forced into making an early announcement. — Sapa.

SABC strike: Plan to prevent interruptions

Citizen Reporter

THE SABC has embarked on contingency plans to prevent the interruption of programmes by striking members of the South African Broadcasting Staff Association (SABSA), following a brief interruption of this Saturday's rugby transmission.

Labour relations spokesman, Mr Christo Pretorius, said: "Obviously we can't reveal the extent of these plans

but they will take into account where SABSA members are working".

He said the union — with 1 600 members — had received a mandate to institute selective industrial action in the present strike, which began on Friday evening.

It was reported that the union had simultaneously cut services to Radio 5, Radio Port Natal, Radio Zulu, Radio Highveld and Radio Good Hope in the Western Cape, but

this could not be confirmed yesterday.

"Financially, the actions did not have a major impact on operations," Mr Pretorius said.

He confirmed that the SABSA members — who are predominantly White — are concentrated in technical areas. There are, however, members working in other fields.

The strike follows the union's rejection of a 7,5 percent pay offer by the SABC.

Three die in Reef squatter camp

Citizen Reporter
and Sapa

THREE people were killed and at least 20 shacks were burnt down at the Cross-roads squatter camp, near Vosloorus, on the East Rand, last night.

A mob also attacked

the Thembaletu School, killing the caretaker and razing his home, said Witwatersrand police liaison officer, Captain Wikus Weber.

There were further reports of sporadic shooting, but the situation appeared to have stabilised about 11.30 pm, after a

"very strong" deployment of police and South African Defence Force personnel in the area.

Police and soldiers were sweeping the area for the killers and had started cleaning-up operations.

TO PAGE 2

3 die in camp

FROM PAGE 1

A large contingent of security force members has been deployed in Tembisa, east of Johannesburg following an outbreak of violence in the township yesterday.

Capt Weber said police patrols heard shots coming from the Vizimuzi hostel and the nearby Vellamambo section in the township at about 5 pm.

While investigating,

police vehicles were also shot at, and reinforcements, including Defence Force troops, were called in "from surrounding areas and Dunnottar."

Shooting continued into the night, but there were no reports of casualties.

He confirmed that a police Nyala vehicle was attacked with petrol bombs in the Jiyana section at 7.25 pm and the vehicle "nearly burnt out".

Voting age

□ From Page 1

ment to the negotiating forum that an election date be announced on June 3.

Consensus reached two weeks ago in the council was that the 26 parties would discuss setting an election date once they had completed talks on constitutional principles. But negotiators are concerned that they have not yet made sufficient headway in reaching compromises that will allow discussions on these principles to be satisfactorily dealt with before June 3.

One source said the second report of the technical committee looking at constitutional principles had merely "sketched out the two scenarios the negotiating council will have to decide on".

One option is that propagated by the ANC and government — that a transitional executive council be established in the run-up to elections for an interim government that will also act as a constitution-making body. The second, favoured by Inkatha and

the Concerned South Africans Group, is that the final constitutional principles be decided on by the negotiating forum with a group of experts drafting the constitution before elections.

Concessions granted by the ANC on regionalism, to accommodate Inkatha and in exchange for agreement on going the transitional route, are labelled by the technical committee as insufficient. The committee argues that the ANC should concede that regions be allowed to take central government to court should it interfere in regional issues beyond what is agreed upon in talks. It also warns that Inkatha will have to accept that an elected constitution-making body will draft the final constitution.

Yesterday, negotiators said that tomorrow's council meeting would have to get down to some "real negotiating over regional matters" because without resolution, no progress was possible.

The Star

Established 1887

Helping the young now

WHAT the assassination of Chris Hani, and more recently the school boycotts, brought firmly to the national attention is the anger and plight of South Africa's black youth. The question on everyone's lips is: What is to be done?

How timely, therefore, the research undertaken by the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE) which for the first time scientifically quantifies the numbers of young people who are "lost", "marginalised", and "at risk". That 500 000 have slipped through the social net entirely, and that a further 2,5 million are close to doing so, is a daunting reality, but not an immobilising one. To know the extent of the problem is the first step towards deciding on what is to be done.

The CASE research, as reported in The Star last week, has several recommendations in this regard, and the agency's involvement in searching for solutions continues. At the heart of the recommendations is not only the need to reintegrate our damaged youth into their communities, but to redress the social and physical inequities which have fed their disillusion for so long. The manifold problems in education, housing, health, and above all formal and informal job creation must be addressed. Large-scale psychological help will probably also be required.

But these interventions take time. What is required right now is the introduction of some form of national development service which harnesses the energy of youth, while providing them with training and development opportunities at the same time. All sorts of ideas have been suggested. Perhaps the most apposite models for South Africa, as CASE suggests, could be based on those from the United States, both current and historic, like the Citizens' Conservation Corps which operated during the years of the Great Depression.

Such schemes will cost a great deal of money, which will have to be provided by the State. The input of industry and the private sector in general will also be crucial to their ultimate effectiveness.

Right-wingers 'targeted eight others'

STEPHANE BOTHMA

RIGHT-WINGERS Clive Derby-Lewis, his wife Gaye and Polish immigrant Janusz Walus face charges of conspiracy to murder ANC leader Nelson Mandela, the SACP's Joe Slovo, Judge Richard Goldstone, Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha and four others.

The three were officially charged on Friday in the Boksburg Magistrate's Court with the April 10 murder of SACP leader Chris Hani.

The State alleged Clive Derby-Lewis

had supplied the 9mm Z88 pistol and a silencer used in the killing and that Walus pulled the trigger.

The three face a murder charge, charges of conspiracy to murder nine people and of the illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition.

The court did not ask them to plead, and postponed the matter to June 23 in the

□ To Page 2

Derby-Lewis

□ From Page 1

Rand Supreme Court.

The postponement date, set by the Transvaal judge president, was strongly criticised by the defence team, who said the State had embarked on an "instant trial" and did not allow the accused time to prepare their defence properly.

Witwatersrand Attorney-General Klaus von Lieres und Wilkau SC issued a certificate in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act in which he opposed granting bail to the Derby-Lewis couple. Walus has not applied for bail.

The summary of substantial facts attached to the indictment served on the trio said on January 29 Gaye Derby-Lewis obtained details such as home addresses, of nine people the State claim they conspired to kill. The details were allegedly supplied by former Citizen journalist Arthur Kemp at her request.

Other names on the list were ANC executive committee member Mac Maharaj, journalists Karen Brynard and Tim

du Plessis and Sunday Times editor Ken Owen.

The State alleged that during February this year, President's Councillor Clive Derby-Lewis asked an S Venter where he could obtain a firearm. Venter provided him with a 9mm pistol, which Derby-Lewis took to Cape Town.

In Cape Town he allegedly had a silencer fitted to the pistol and obtained five subsonic 9mm cartridges from a gunsmith.

The indictment states that Walus was arrested 10 minutes after Hani's killing with this firearm in his possession.

Police later found the list of names in Walus's Pretoria flat.

Attached to the indictment, as annexure A, was a note with a detailed description of Mandela's home and its high-tech electronic surveillance systems. A photograph accompanied the note.

The note also had a fairly detailed description of Slovo's house on the Observatory/Yeoville border.

ANC, IFP in row over Tokoza massacre

By Paul Bell

The ANC and IFP yesterday offered sharply different versions of the events that led to Saturday's clash between their supporters in Tokoza, which claimed 13 lives.

It emerged that the ANC had been warned that hostel residents were massing outside the hostel, and asked by both a peace monitor and police to take another route.

And amid a growing row

over which side was responsible, the ANC has repeated its call for a consumer boycott of white-owned businesses in the "racist" Alberton community from today. The march had been called to announce the boycott.

ANC PWV chairman Tokyo Sexwale denied yesterday

that the marchers had been seeking confrontation, saying that up to a week's warning had been given of the ANC's intentions. His opposite number in the IFP, Themba Khoza, said the march had been provocative and that "the intention of certain elements was not peaceful".

By last night, a series of

important questions remained unanswered:

- Why the march leaders insisted on taking a route they knew to be a flashpoint in this East Rand township, when they had been warned of a massing of hostel residents, and despite being urged by both peace monitor Piroshaw Camay and the po-

lice at the scene to go by another route. Sexwale responded yesterday by saying the ANC would not accept no-go areas.

The ANC claims it proceeded with its march down Khumalo Street because it had been given the assurance that police would move hostel residents back inside

the hostel. The marchers would then march by as quickly as possible.

But, the ANC claims, the police failed to make good this undertaking. "Having been informed about plans for the march, police should have taken every possible measure to prevent a possible confrontation. We there-

fore hold the police responsible for the massacre."

- Why ANC marshals permitted marchers to carry cultural weapons. Sexwale said that, while the ANC disapproved, its supporters had insisted on carrying weapons — a situation made more difficult by the IFP's refusal to accede on this issue.

- When the IFP had been warned of the ANC's planned march. The ANC claims the

● To Page 3

● From Page 1

Alberton and Tokoza town clerks and the Alberton police and chief magistrate had been warned up to a week before.

The IFP says that while it knew of the rally at the stadium, it heard of the march plans no more than a matter of hours before it took place. Inkatha MP Henrie Bekker said if the matter had been handled through the Wits-Vaal Peace Secretariat, they might have lodged objections and had time to avert the confrontation.

- The IFP was unable to offer a coherent explanation as to why its supporters allegedly fired on the ANC marchers.

The ANC has also charged the police with massing troops not in Tokoza, where they were needed, but in the centre

of Alberton to protect white property.

The National Peace Secretariat, deluged by claims and counter-claims, said the Wits-Vaal Peace Secretariat would convene tomorrow to begin an investigation.

Both the ANC and IFP — at separate press conferences in Johannesburg yesterday — called for an independent inquiry into the incident.

Both parties appeared to distance themselves from the desirability of a Goldstone inquiry. The ANC said this was an occasion on which it was necessary to "move beyond Goldstone". The IFP confined itself to endorsing Mr Justice Richard Goldstone's call for a moratorium on marches.

SAP Witwatersrand liaison officer Captain Wikus Weber claimed the police had attempted

to communicate with both factions, trying to get the IFP supporters back into the hostel, and trying to persuade the ANC to take another route. "We saw possible danger and tried to avert it."

He said it was difficult to say who had opened fire first, and dismissed as "ridiculous" suggestions that the SAP had been responsible for deaths among the marchers.

Police had used tear-smoke, birdshot and rubber bullets, he said. Those who died had been killed by gunshot, stab and hack wounds. Sixty-one people were injured.

ANC president Nelson Mandela said yesterday he believed the killings were part of ongoing attempts by "political elements in Government" to torpedo negotiations.

Page 4- *

Victim tells of chaos as SAP fire

By Angela Quintal

A WOUNDED survivor of Saturday's incident in Tokoza township on the East Rand in which 61 people were injured and 13 killed said from his bed in the Natalspruit Hospital yesterday that pandemonium broke out when the police fired on the crowd with teargas to disperse them.

Mr Ben Nkopenane, 33, said that the shootings had started immediately afterwards, and that he had been shot at point-blank range by a hostel-dweller as he was fleeing from the teargas. He said he was not angry and still supported negotiations.

Mr Nkopenane said police had assisted him and transported him to hospital after he was shot below the collar-bone and in the chest.

Twenty of the 61 people injured were discharged from hospital by yesterday afternoon. It appeared that many of the injured were shot from behind.

Mr Eric Mayambela, 39, of Phola Park, said he was shot twice, in the stomach and in the leg, by a policeman.

He said he had participated in other marches that had followed the same route without any incidents of violence.

"I did not expect trouble. We had marched before and there wasn't any trouble."

He added he was unaware of possible danger and that he had not heard any warning about armed hostel-dwellers in the vicinity.

Mr Tutu Somxo, 43, said that ANC marshals had warned the marchers of a possible confrontation, and had tried to stop them from marching at some stage.

"But some of the people did not want to listen. They wanted to go ahead and so they did." Mr Somxo described how he noticed "Zulus" coming out of the hostel, and saw the police there too.

"There was a lot of noise. I don't know who shot first. It was all confusing."

Mr Somxo said march-

ers had panicked when police started firing teargas and then live ammunition.

"A lot of people were injured. I ran to a garage, but the police shot at me."

Mr Somxo, who was shot in the foot, claimed most of the injured were also shot in the feet.

Mr Somxo said he had to hobble to the hospital, as no one was prepared to help him.

BUSINESS DAY, Thursday, May 27 1993

COMMENT

Tell us more

NELSON Mandela may well be right when he says the police swoop on PAC officials is just another problem which the negotiating process will survive. At worst there may be some delay, but government has some explaining to do about the way police put negotiations in handcuffs.

That explanation must come from President de Klerk, who is responsible for the actions of his Ministers and their officials, and from whom the public can rightly expect more information than they have been given so far. There will be least damage to the negotiating process if people of all political persuasions believe this was a slick, professional police action to arrest the killers of policemen and farmers, undertaken because it was necessary despite the regrettable effect on negotiations. There will be widespread support for the arrest of people when there is clear evidence to suspect them of murder; government cannot afford to leave itself vulnerable to accusations of a naive attempt to placate the white right, or of a calculated ploy to slow if not stop negotiations.

President de Klerk needs to answer these concerns, in more detail than he did yesterday, because the incident is being seized on by those who maintain it shows yet again that government is negotiating in bad faith. Police Minister Hernus Kriel needs to answer with more than bluster, because police credibility has been dealt another blow after painstaking efforts to se-

cure some trust in the violence-ridden black townships. When so much was at stake, he cannot leave the police force open to suspicions of political interference or humbling incompetence.

The raids took place on the eve of a political breakthrough as negotiators were moving towards finalising the transition process and setting an election date. Given the inevitable political repercussions, it is simply not good enough to describe this as a normal operation, or for the commissioner to say the arrests were timed to coincide with the parliamentary discussion of the police budget, allowing debate on the issue. Other timings were more important; De Klerk who is sensitive to such issues knew of the raid but seems to have thought wider consultation unnecessary. That is a far-reaching decision for which he is accountable; the discomfort of his negotiating team was palpable.

The right wing is clearly happy, but that is no justification. This should not have been an exercise to pacify those who believe government is soft on communists and terrorists; it needed to be clearly based on reliable information pointing to the involvement of those concerned in planning or committing a wave of murders. The last claims of widespread Apla arrests after border murders were followed by releases, not convictions.

If the same happens now, the debate will rightly focus on the quality of decision-making in President de Klerk's government.



Burning barricades . . . a youth sets a barricade alight during running battles between hostel dwellers, ANC supporters and security forces in Tokoza on Saturday. The township was one of several to erupt in violence at the weekend. Picture: Joao Silva

Farm gangs using Mau Mau tactics

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

Cattle and other livestock on farms across the country have been maimed in recent weeks as gangs slash animals in a campaign of intimidation against farmers.

Thirty-three farmers or family members have been killed this year by gangs — believed to be part of the Azanian People's Liberation Army (Apla).

Round-the-clock protection for farmers and their animals has been introduced in many areas and farmers have mobilised in some parts of the plateland to protect property.

The attacks on animals have been confirmed by the police and Transvaal and Free State agricultural authorities.

This year, 33 farmers or members of their families were killed in more than 120 attacks on homesteads. Five died in January, eight in February, four in March, 11 in April and five so far this month.

Attacks in country areas have been in the eastern Transvaal (33) and on the Witwatersrand (20), northern Transvaal (14), far northern Transvaal (13), Free State (12), western Transvaal (11), eastern Cape (10), Natal (4) and western Cape (5).

Angry farmers have asked for curfews to be imposed and for additional security manpower to be allocated for protection.

Police Commissioner General Johan van der Merwe said police had for some time "been busy with comprehensive steps to improve the security of those living on farms and smallholdings, and who are regarded as being particularly vulnerable".

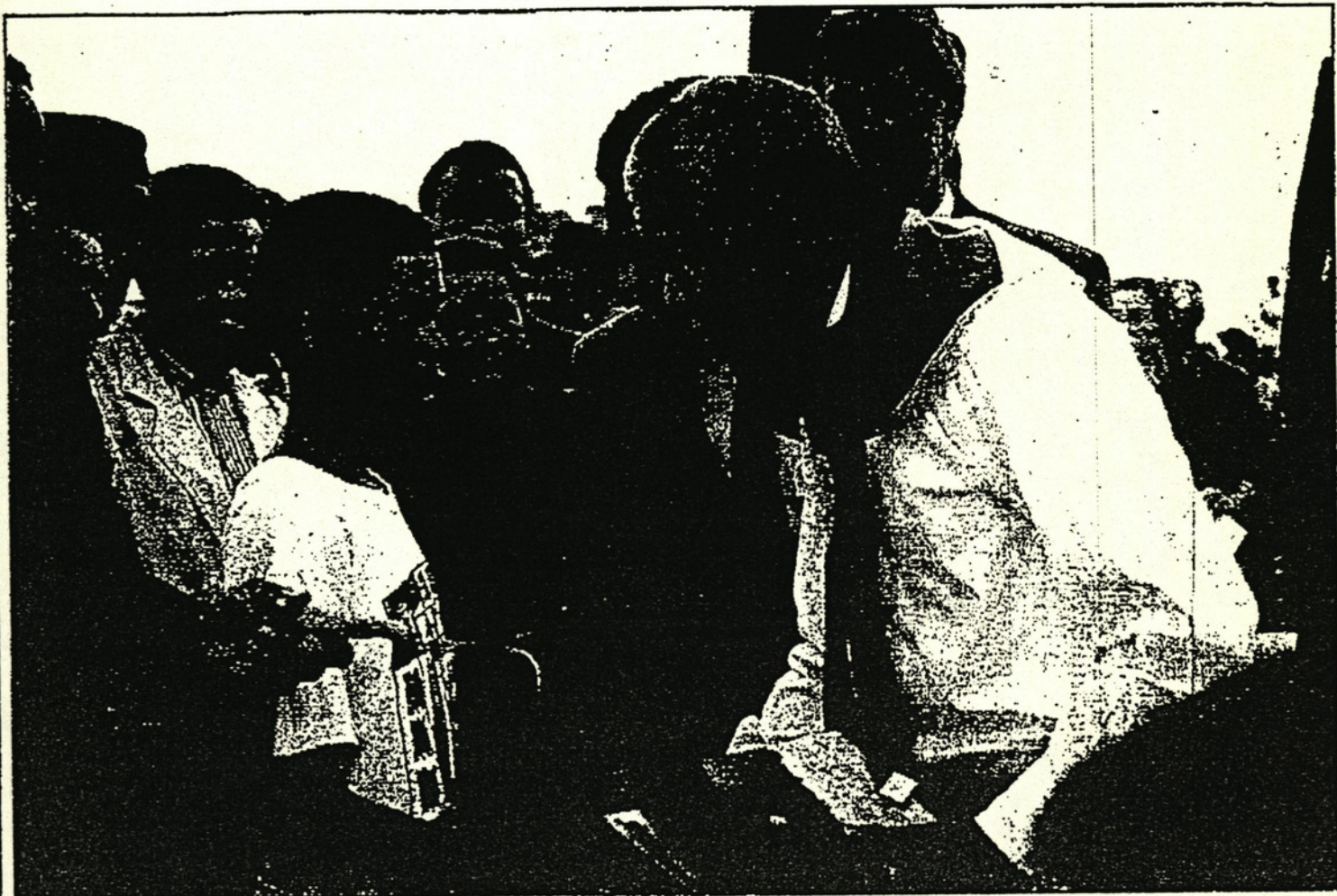
Policemen would be placed on the farms of the elderly.

It was revealed yesterday that a tactic of the gangs involved in attacks on animals — similar to Operation Mau Mau, which was embarked on in Kenya before independence — has been either to kill animals or maim them so badly that they have to be destroyed.

Farmers in the eastern Cape, Free State and western Transvaal have told police of "death-threat telephone calls and letters", the perpetrators warning that harm could come to families and friends if farmers did not leave the lands.

The terror campaign on farmers and their livestock this year coincided with an Apla decision to shift its campaign from "soft" targets to hit-and-run attacks on security forces and "hard" targets, according to intelligence sources.

Apla — which is mainly operational in the eastern Cape, PWV and parts of the Free State — has apparently also embarked on a recruitment drive. It is believed that youth members of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, have deserted to join Apla without the knowledge of the ANC executive.



Potential voter . . . Nelson Mandela greets a young supporter at Madadeni, Newcastle, yesterday. He urged youths to return to the classrooms and repeated his call for the vote to be extended to 14-year-olds. Picture: George Mashinini

By Patrick Laurence

Official ANC policy was that the vote should be extended to all South Africans from the age of 18. Zola Skweyiya, head of the ANC's department of constitutional affairs, said today.

Skweyiya responded to an inquiry about ANC voting policy in the wake of Nelson Mandela's controversial call for the voting age to be lowered to 14 by reading from the ANC's submission to the present multiparty talks.

"Persons Entitled to Vote: All South Africans citizens who have attained the age of 18 shall be eligible to vote for the electoral process."

'Official ANC policy is for vote at 18'

On Mandela's call for the franchise to be extended to 14-year-olds, Skweyiya referred to a recent seminar organised by church leaders: "In that seminar I think they came out with a statement that the youth have contributed to changes in South Africa and that they should be given a say in the changes that are taking place."

Contacted by The Star, Aleah Bacquie, international press of-

ficer of the South African Council of Churches, confirmed that lowering of the voting age had been discussed at a seminar of religious leaders — rather than merely Christian leaders — on May 10-12.

But the qualifying age that had been mooted was 16, not 14, the age at which people were issued with identity documents and at which blacks had been required to carry "passes" until

the pass system was abolished, Bacquie said.

● Allowing people of 14 years of age to vote would introduce a new logistical complication to the pending election as they would not have identity documents, Democratic Party spokesman on Home Affairs Dene Smuts (Groote Schuur) said in Cape Town today, reports The Star's Political Staff.

She said the 14 to 18 age bracket was large, measuring between one and two million people, and it was politically significant. These people would electorally come into play at a second election. Allowing them the vote now was ill-advised, Smuts said.

New MP chosen to succeed Dr T

By Jacqueline Myburgh

A descendant and namesake of Voortrekker leader Louis Trichardt has succeeded the late Conservative Party leader, Dr Andries Treurnicht, as MP for Waterberg in the northern Transvaal.

The new CP MP, 57-year-old Louis Trichardt, told The Star yesterday he would be sworn in on Wednesday.

Trichardt, a cattle farmer at Alma in the Waterberg district, was appointed MP after a nomination election on Saturday. According to new laws, no by-election was held, but his internal nomination was opposed by Professor Johan Schabert of Brits. Trichardt said he won 53 votes from executive members of CP branches in the Waterberg to Schabert's 51.

Trichardt is chairman of the local agricultural union and was CP Waterberg council chairman for the past year.

He plans to strive for unity of right-wing groups in the Waterberg and hopes the recently formed Volksfront will unite all rightwingers. His wife Karyna is chairman of the CP women's branch in the northern Transvaal. They have four children.

Mandela hears of bomb terror

By Happy Nkhoma

ANC peace desk chief Sydney Mufamadi's wife, Nomsa, has described to ANC president Nelson Mandela her terror during two petrol bomb attacks on her Soweto home last week.

When The Star interviewed Mufamadi on Friday, she said the attacks had left her numb with fear. She had just returned home from spending Thursday with relatives after the second attack in 48 hours on Wednesday.

Mufamadi spoke slowly and wiped her tear-filled eyes. And then ANC president Nelson Mandela unexpectedly

arrived.

Addressing Mandela as "Baba", she smiled cheerfully when he gave her a fatherly bear-hug.

With her composure regained, she told him how on the night of the first attack she had blindly run to the burning lounge and been pulled away by her daughter Lindiwe (12), who had phoned the neighbours and the police.

Mandela called the girl to his side and kissed her. He spoke to her about her school and friends and congratulated her on her bravery.

Mufamadi said she had been uneasy ever since an unknown person phoned a paging com-

pany two weeks ago saying Sydney Mufamadi had been assassinated.

She said whenever her husband was out late she would call him and make sure he was safe. She had always stayed awake until he got home.

Between cups of tea, Mandela told Mufamadi she had to continue standing by her husband's side. He would be strong if he found she had handled herself well as such an experience was a test of her strength and character.

The attacks were acts of people who were against peace and progress as democracy would bring an end to their acts of evil.

Peace corps pros and cons

THE idea of a national peacekeeping force, initially scoffed at in some circles for being unrealistic, has begun to move to centre stage in the debate to reconstruct South African society.

Such a force is being strongly pushed as the most effective way to deal with violence in the run-up to elections, aside from its potential to help absorb marginalised township youth and to redefine their role as assistants in socio-economic renewal.

Although still in the discussion phase, the principle of creating community-based peacekeeping structures to operate during and after the elections has been widely accepted as an initiative which should be realised soon.

However, divisions have emerged around the structure and precise functions of the mooted "peace corps" or "joint peacekeeping unit".

The assassinated SACP general secretary Chris Hani had envisaged township self-defence units being converted into "peace corps".

The Rev Stanley Mogoba, presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church, gave a clearer definition of the idea last November when he proposed a Joint Peacekeeping Unit of about 5 000, made up of the SAP, SADF, Umkhonto we Sizwe, Apla and homelands security forces.

Existing police and military forces would each second personnel to the Joint Peacekeeping Unit.

The unit would be under an agreed, experienced international command provided by either the United Nations or the



HELEN GRANGE

There has been a great deal of discussion on a plan for a national peacekeeping force. But what does it entail and where do the various parties stand?

Commonwealth, or both, and would be accountable to a specially created element in the National Peace Accord structures, Mogoba suggested.

Umkhonto we Sizwe commander Joe Modise has made a similar proposal to the ANC. He has suggested the formation of a combined armed force of about 5 000 "peace soldiers" to deal with violence during the elections phase.

The ANC is currently considering this and other proposals arising from discussions with other parties and organisations.

Although the Government has undertaken to discuss the joint peacekeeping proposal in one of the negotiations' technical committees, the idea has been all but shot down by the police.

Commented Law and Order Ministry spokesman Captain Craig Kotze: "In the interests of peace, we are prepared to co-operate with any organisation, as long as they act within the law."

"However, certain security functions must remain firmly within the ranks of the SAP and SADF. To shift the focal points of security away from these bodies would be dangerous and confusing."

Meanwhile, a working committee involving the SAP and



Bishop Mogoba... spelt it out more clearly.

ANC Alliance has been formed at the Wits/Vaal Peace Secretariat to address the issue, and sources are optimistic that agreement will finally be reached on the Joint Peacekeeping Unit's shape and mandate.

Among supporters of a joint armed unit is Lawyers for Human Rights director Brian Currin, who has argued that such a unit could be controlled through constitutional rules, subjecting it to strict lines of command and a code of conduct.

"It would also be in the interests of the police for the unit to shoulder the responsibility for dealing with confrontation situations, instead of the police al-

ways being singularly discredited for their actions," said Currin.

The international community would also play an important role in the monitoring the unit's behaviour, he added.

Professor Mike Hough of the University of Pretoria's Strategic Studies department disagrees.

"The cost and time involved in training a joint security or riot unit would make it totally unviable," he said.

"There is no time before the elections to form such a unit. That's aside from the political ramifications it would have."

Despite the divisions over security functions of a peacekeeping force, there is a lot of consideration being given to the other roles it could play.

One idea is to structure such a force along similar lines as the innovative international Peace Corps launched by President Kennedy in 1961.

A South African version of such a group would be used to provide socio-economic support to disadvantaged communities.

Said Currin: "Young people could be trained to provide, say, paralegal and paramedic services to communities."

"They could help to upgrade communities through providing water and teaching basic agricultural skills. There would also be a need for trained mediators."

Recommendations on the shape and mandate of a national peacekeeping force are currently being made to the Goldstone Commission, which is holding an inquiry into ways and means of curbing the potential for public violence and intimidation during elections. □



Peace force? Having suspended their armed struggle, Umkhonto weSizwe soldiers could be called to maintain order among the population during the general election.

Picture: Joao Silva

Mandela presses for lower voting age to appease youth

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela, president of the African National Congress, repeated his call yesterday for the legal voting age in South Africa to be reduced to 14 for the country's first non-racial election early next year.

His surprise demand is being seen as a conciliatory one towards ANC youth, which is becoming increasingly uncontrollable as constitutional negotiations approach a climax.

Mr Mandela last night concluded a two-day visit to the volatile northern Natal region that has been at the forefront of clashes between ANC supporters and those of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom party of Chief Mangosuthu Buthe. The visit has been seen as the launch of the ANC's election campaign in the area.

He told a rally at Dundee: "They say a person under 18 cannot think correctly and make a wise choice. We reject that. ANC youths left school at the age of 12 to join Umkhonto we Sizwe (the ANC's armed wing). Those who fought for freedom are very people it is said should vote. We reject that."

Although the Congress of South African Students has called on pupils to go back to school, there is reluctance among many of them about abandoning the programme of mass protest action, including the occupation of empty white schools, that was to begin today.

In another statement yesterday, Mr Mandela told white and Indian businessmen in Newcastle, Natal, that the ANC's alliance with the South African Communist Party was valid only until the country's

first democratic election. He compared the alliance to the anti-Nazi pact between the Western allies and the Soviet Union during the second world war.

The statements came as tension smouldered between ANC and Inkatha supporters after the killing of 13 people in violence that flared between ANC marchers and Zulu hostel dwellers in Thokozwa township, southeast of Johannesburg, on Saturday. Witnesses said gunfire broke out after the marchers taunted the hostel dwellers and shooting continued for 20 minutes.

The ANC yesterday called for a commission of enquiry into the killings. Two white and one black security guard were killed later when a crowd of angry blacks turned on them in Thokozwa's outskirts.

Separately, a plan to snatch Mr Mandela by helicopter from Robben Island, the maximum-security prison where he spent most of his 27 years behind bars, was revealed at the weekend. It was to have taken place on New Year's day 1981, nine years before he was freed. Documents detailing the plan will go on show in Cape Town on Wednesday.



Mandela favours vote for youths aged 14

London

24 MAY 1991

Mandela attempts to hide retreat on constitution with militant demands to multi-party talks

ANC poised to back compromise

David Slesford
in Johannesburg

THE African National Congress is on the verge of surrendering its demand that a new constitution for South Africa be negotiated on a democratic basis, by allowing the present multi-party forum to set constitutional principles.

The talks will reach a watershed this week when participants consider proposals by a technical committee on the principles which will be binding on a future constituent assembly and parliament.

Indications are that the ANC and the government will endorse the committee's report. The Inkatha Freedom Party and the militant Pan Africanist Congress may also be swept on to the bandwagon. But the proposals — which rule out a separate Afrikaner state — may be the breaking point for the rightwing Conservative Party.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, appears to be engaging in a show of militancy in an

attempt to camouflage the compromise. At the weekend he made an extraordinary demand that the franchise be extended to children aged 14. He also announced that the ANC would unilaterally announce a date for the country's first multi-racial general election before the end of the month.

The technical committee's confidential report says the key to a settlement is agreement on binding constitutional principles. These should be sufficient to offer assurance to those who are concerned that their interests will not be adequately protected if the constitution is drawn up by an elected constitution-making body, without being so detailed as to pre-empt the work of the elected constitution-making body.

It recommends that the forum accept stringent safeguards, particularly with regard to devolved powers for the regions. These would include clauses giving regions vetoes on constitutional amendments affecting their powers and the right to challenge central government in the courts.

The ANC and government have already agreed on the principle of power-sharing, which appears to enjoy general support.

The report of the technical committee — a group of eight constitutional and legal experts — is to be submitted to a planning committee with 10 members today and to the negotiating council tomorrow. The council represents all 26 parties taking part in the talks.

Black groups taking part in the multi-party talks cannot be considered representative in that they have not been elected. The ANC denies the legitimacy of the present tricameral parliament and, therefore, of the government and opposition. Many are likely to see a deal at the talks as an abandonment of the democratic ideal.

There is still a possibility that

Proposals may be the breaking point for the rightwing Conservative Party

Although its acceptance would not amount to a final settlement, it will represent a breakthrough. It should be sufficient to enable the forum to meet next week's self-imposed deadline to agree on a date for the general election.

The ANC's difficulty is that public acceptance of such far-reaching principles flies in the face of its past insistence that the new constitution has to be drawn up by a democratically

the ANC will hold out for a bilateral deal with the government on constitutional principles rather than a formal multi-party agreement at this stage.

Concern in the ANC at the step they are now taking appears to lie behind the militant rhetoric used by Mr Mandela during a tour of the volatile Natal province at the weekend. At a rally near Dundee on Saturday, he announced that the ANC would be pressing for the

franchise for children aged 14. He said children aged 12 had left school to fight for Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's military wing, and it was unacceptable that "those at the forefront of the battle must not vote". The age qualification for the South African franchise is 18.

At another rally near Newcastle, Mr Mandela said the ANC would announce, before the end of this month, the "exact date" for elections, to be held before next April. The ANC is already party to an agreement that the date will be announced by June 2.

The ANC president described Saturday's township massacre at Tokoma, east of Johannesburg, in which 13 people were killed as another attempt to sabotage the talks.

There were conflicting accounts yesterday of responsibility for the killings, which resulted from an exchange of gunfire between ANC marchers, hostel dwellers supporting Inkatha and the security forces. The dead included two white security guards. Sixty-one people were injured.

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THIS idea of a national peacekeeping force, initially scoffed at in some circles for being unrealistic, has begun to move to centre stage in the debate to reconstruct South African society.

Such a force is being strongly pushed as the most effective way to deal with violence in the run-up to elections, aside from its potential to help absorb marginalised township youth and to redefine their role as assistants in socio-economic renewal.

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The unit would be under an agreed, experienced international command provided by either the United Nations or the



Commonwealth, or both, and would be accountable to a specially created element in the National Peace Accord structures, Mogoba suggested.

Umkhonto we Sizwe commander Joe Modise has made a similar proposal to the ANC. He has suggested the formation of a combined armed force of about 1000 "peace soldiers" to deal with violence during the elections phase.

The ANC is currently considering this and other proposals arising from discussions with other parties and organisations.

Although the Government has undertaken to discuss the joint peacekeeping proposal as one of the negotiations' technical committees, the idea has been all but shut down by the police.

Commented Law and Order Ministry spokesman Captain Craig Kotze: "In the interests of peace, we are prepared to co-operate with any organisation, as long as they act within the law."

"However, certain security functions must remain firmly within the ranks of the SADF and SAP. To shift the focal points of security away from these bodies would be dangerous and confusing."

Meanwhile, a working commission involving the SADF and

There has been a great deal of discussion on a plan for a national peacekeeping force. But what does it entail and where do the various parties stand?



Bishop Mogoba... spell it out more clearly.

AMU Alliance has been formed at the Wit/Wiel Peace Secretariat to address the skills and resources are optimistic that agreement will finally be reached on the Joint Peacekeeping Unit's shape and mandate.

Among supporters of a joint armed unit is Lawyers for Human Rights director Brian Curran, who has argued that such a unit could be controlled through constitutional rules, subjecting it to strict limits of command and a code of conduct.

"It would also be in the interests of the police for the unit to shoulder the responsibility for dealing with confrontational situations instead of the police as

ways being singularly discredited for their actions," said Curran.

The international community would also play an important role in the monitoring the unit's behaviour, he added.

Professor Mike Kough of the University of Pretoria's Strategic Studies Department disagrees.

"The cost and time involved in training a joint security or riot unit would make it totally unviable," he said.

"There is no time before the elections to form such a unit. That's aside from the political ramifications it would have."

Despite the divisions over security functions of a peacekeeping force, there is a lot of consideration being given to the other roles it could play.

One idea is to structure such a force along similar lines as the innovative international Peace Corps launched by President Kennedy in 1961.

A South African version of such a group would be used to provide socio-economic support to disadvantaged communities.

Said Curran: "Young people could be trained to provide, say, paralegal and paramedical services to communities."

"They could help to upgrade communities through providing water and teaching basic agricultural skills. There would also be a need for trained mediators."

Recommendations on the shape and mandate of a national peacekeeping force are currently being made to the Goldstone Commission, which is holding an inquiry into ways and means of curbing the potential for public violence and intimidation during elections. D