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African National Congress



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DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

MEDIA STATEMENT: WE DEMAND ACTION, NOT DE KLERK'S CROCODILE TEARS

The African National Congress is shocked and dismayed at the planned visit of President F W De Klerk to the scene of the Boipatong massacre. It seems that his insensitivity to the grief our people knows no bounds. After having created the climate for this massacre with his statements about a plan to counter mass action and the mobilisation of the army and the police he now wants to indulge in a cynical public relations exercise. Where was he in the past when our people were killed at Swanieville a year ago? Not a single suspect has been apprehended for that matter.

While De Klerk tries to create the impression that he cares, there is disturbing evidence that the violence is escalating. Yesterday the police arrested six youths in Boipatong. They were beaten up in front of their families and taken to Sebokeng police station. When their families went there to look for them the police told them that they can fetch them today at the mortuary. This is happening while the police haven't yet entered Kwa-Madala hostel where the attackers of the Slovo squatter camp came from. Last night attacks were carried out at Ratanda in Heidelberg where an IFP rally will be held there today. We fear it will lead to further violence.

De Klerk will try to enter Boipatong on a wave of bloodshed, fear and intimidation. He is not welcome. We demand action, not De Klerk's crocodile tears.

The African National Congress demands that:

- ' Boipatong immediately be declared a National Disaster Area
- ' A fund be set up for relief of all the victims
- ' A thorough investigation must be conducted leading to the arrest and prosecution of all those who are directly or indirectly responsible
- ' All local police commanders must be dismissed as demonstrably incompetent

* An Ecumenical-Interfaith National Day of Morning must be declared on the 27th of June - the day of the funeral.

* An International Commission of Inquiry must investigate the Boipatong massacre and all other acts of violence, and an international violence monitoring team be allowed to enter the country immediately

We have reached a crucial time in the history of our country. The violence, the incompetence and callousness of this government is destroying our country. Boipatong is a national tragedy. All South Africans who are committed to peace and justice must now stand together and demonstrate their solidarity with the victims of this massacre.

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