

Apartheid negates any notion of a 'normal' education system

# Educationist speaks out

Sowetan Friday

December 31, 1982

AMONG South African blacks education has remained a contentious issue ever since it was introduced nearly 30 years ago.

Many teachers resigned when Bantu Education was introduced and only those who felt sad and unhappy about leaving their students in the lurch stayed on with the hope that the system would change for the better.

It is now six years since students revolted against the increasing use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in black schools. Naturally, some "changes" have occurred in our education system.

First the Department of Bantu Education was renamed the Department of Education and Training followed by the complete take-over of schools from school boards to State schools. But the question remains . . . where to black education?

Is this education based on apartheid accepted by blacks? Is it educating them to be primary citizens in their land of birth? Are blacks happy about it, or is it just a matter that

**University lecturer Tamsanqa Kambule takes a look at past and current developments in the realm of education in South Africa and comes up with some scathing conclusions concerning the nature and standard of black education. Ali Mphaki reports . . .**

because half a loaf of bread is better than none, they (blacks) cannot do otherwise?

Wits University lecturer, Mr Tamsanqa Kambule, in an interview with The SOWETAN, said that not until the political element had been rooted out of our educational system and only when the Black Man was in power, would "education" be normal.

"Dr Verwoerd based black education on political grounds and until that political element is removed we will keep on marking time," he said.

Mr Kambule said the policy on which Bantu Education was based showed clear — that blacks were not educated to take part in the running of the country. Since 1953 black

people's misgivings had been justified because the department has not succeeded in upgrading black education to a level that the majority of blacks are satisfied with.

The average child has not reached a level where he can adequately express himself in English. For students to reach matric and remain unable to articulate themselves in English only showed there was something wrong with the system, he said.

"Many black people who are with Det have sent their children to multiracial schools and others still come to me to ask advice as concerns the taking of their children to these schools. If there is nothing wrong with our education why then this uneasiness?

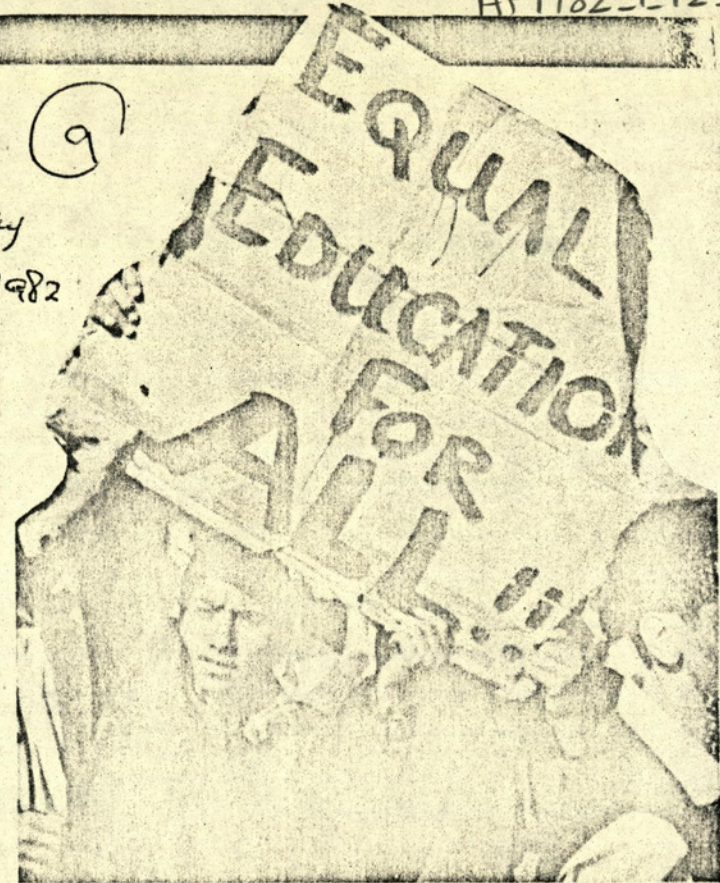
"The recent white matric results were re-

ceived with a fan fare but you will see when those of blacks are released . . . it will be like a deflated tyre. No fan fare would occur. Newspapers would not show that Tebogo Mogale of Springs achieved 9 distinctions. The fan fare never happens and that only shows there is something wrong just there," he said.

Mr Kambule added that even those who passed were still going to find it very difficult at university because they were undernourished educationally. Lack of nourishment coupled with no pressure from lecturers and with no vernacular spoken brings about some disastrous effects.

Black students at white universities are at a terrible disadvantage. It takes quite some time for them to learn to cope. What makes it worse is that most of them receive their results very late.

Coloured students hold aloft a poster in a demonstration against "coloured education." About 2000 students took part in the demonstration which was also in sympathy with the Cape stayaway.





*The Daily News Dec. 31, 1982*

## Grim New Year message

# Smoking will

## kill 3 000

## S Africans

MORE than 3 000 cigarette smokers in South Africa will die next year as a direct result of smoking.

A cheerful thought for thousands of New Year revellers who will see in 1983 with a glass in one hand and a succession of cigarettes in the other.

South Africans are among the world's heaviest smokers with nearly R2-million being spent on cigarettes each day.

Professor A.M. Coetzee, head of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Pretoria, has predicted that 3 000 smokers, between the ages of 16 and 60, will die next year because of their smoking habits.

He said increased evidence that smoking

causes a variety of fatal and disabling diseases had focused attention on the need for an effective deterrent therapy.

According to the latest edition of *Salus*, published by the Department of Health and Welfare, a British doctor undertook a controlled study to evaluate the efficacy of a certain drug as a smoking deterrent.

Each of the 32 patients who took part in the trial was issued with tablets and instructed to take up to eight tablets a day.

They also received a diary card on which they had to record the exact number of tablets taken as well as the

exact number of cigarettes smoked each day for 28 days.

The results showed that 73 percent of the patients who received the drug, lobeline sulphate (lobidan), had stopped smoking completely at the end of 28 days. Fifty percent of the patients who had received placebo tablets were successful in giving up the habit.

The doctor, Dr A.H. Gollidge, said there was sufficient evidence in the trial to show that the drug was an influencing factor in helping people to give up smoking.

"Previous controversial opinion on the usefulness of lobidan as a smoking deterrent may well be due to sub-therapeutic dosage," he said.

**Daily News  
Reporter**

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SADF

R.D. Mail  
action

Dec. 29, 1982  
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Zulus

Mail Correspondent

DURBAN. — The Chief Minister of KwaZulu, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, is to meet top-ranking officers of Natal Command early in the new year to discuss allegations that soldiers of the SA Defence Force have been intimidating members of Inkatha in the disputed Ingwavuma region of north-east KwaZulu.

Chief Buthelezi, who is also president of Inkatha, said yesterday he had received a reply from the SADF through the Commissioner-General for the Zulu people, Mr P N Hansmeyer, following his complaint.

The response of the Defence Force was that soldiers had been going from house to house in the Ingwavuma area to compile statistics which would help in combating the cholera epidemic.

Chief Buthelezi said he had replied that such figures were easily obtainable from the KwaZulu Government.

He said it was not necessary for the soldiers to make house-to-house visits since this had upset the local population.

He had also heard from officers of the KwaZulu Police that at least 70 police vehicles of the South African Police were patrolling the Ingwavuma area.

He warned earlier this month that, unless an adequate explanation for the alleged intimidation was forthcoming, he might consider withdrawing from the Rumpff Commission established to probe the Ingwavuma land deal.

His private secretary, Mr Eric Ngubane, who lives in Maputaland in the eastern Ingwavuma region, had reported that armed soldiers had been questioning the local people about their membership of Inkatha.

They had asked the villagers what Inkatha did for them and had reminded them that Army personnel had helped them during times of drought and the previous cholera epidemic.

Inkatha now has more than 750 000 members.



# COMMENT

AFTER THE excitement of the early release of the matriculation results, there was overall gloom amongst students and parents when the full import of the published figures became evident.

As we intimated yesterday the results on the surface looked good, but after careful study the awful truth emerged that most of those students whose names were published as having passed, would not be able to go to university. In other words the majority of those published yesterday, those who did not get the exemption to enter university, would either have to repeat some subjects or the whole examination. That does not look like a pass to us.

The issue becomes worse when people start comparing the matric results for whites emblazoned with a whole string of distinctions — with the results for blacks. It seems there is a deliberate attempt to make the matriculation appear something of an impossibility for blacks.

This is naturally a lot of hot air. There are many blacks who did well in the past in the more demanding Joint Matriculation Board exams. If people could pass the JMB with flying colours what makes the current matric examination such an impossibility.

Matric, it seems is becoming our Nemesis. There is just no reason for this to be so. There are black children who are indeed thinking this is an impossible exam to pass. There are others who are thinking if it is worth the trouble to slog through one or even two years just to be flunked. These students feel particularly discouraged as many of them are repeating the standard.

We believe black parents should also be blamed for this sorry state of affairs. They have accepted the current educational set-up without a bleat. They will now reap the fruits of their inaction.

Our view is there is something wrong in the way in which the examinations are marked. While white students have their final exam marks graded by their teachers, this hardly happens with blacks. It seems an extraordinary situation for results of white children to be marked up while those of blacks appear to be marked down.

It is also a disservice to the country that children are either pushed into university with a brace of distinctions which mean nothing, or that others are deliberately kept out even if they are brilliant.

This is hardly a sensible thing to do and we believe our leaders should look at the education of South Africans before the country develops more problems. Race has nothing to do with what we are trying to say. We believe this country deserves a lot better, in fact deserves that all its children get the best education. It is for the good of us all.

When we publish these results we believe we are trying to provide some kind of service to our readers, but the reverse seems to be happening these days.

Publishing the names of students who are believed to have passed when they are in fact to repeat the exam, is not a true reflection of the facts. We feel most upset to have to do this kind of thing to our readers, and this is not the first time it's happened. We publish in all good faith with the hope that our people will be served.



Star Sec. 31/1/1982

# The unsung Red Cross heroes keep marching on...

By Sheryl Raine,  
Pretoria Bureau

Unseen and often unheard, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) spent a year of tireless effort in Southern Africa caring for the region's forgotten people — its refugees, displaced persons, security prisoners and prisoners of war.

It's been a tough year for the group whose job it is to pick up the pieces and people — mostly women, children and the aged — left behind by man-made and natural disasters.

In all its activities, the ICRC impresses upon governments and the public its neutrality and objectivity, without which it could not be universally accepted.

## SOUTH

It could be said the increased presence of the ICRC in this part of the world is indicative of mounting tension in the region.

In Pretoria, ICRC staff has been expanded from three to five delegates. In Windhoek delegates now number two.

Angola now has an ICRC delegation in Luanda, two sub-delegations at Huambo and Lubango and an office at N'Giva in the south.

There are also ICRC delegates in Maputo and Harare.

"Tension seemed to grow in Southern Africa this year," Pretoria head of ICRC, Mr

Nicolas de Rougemont said.

Despite this, the ICRC scored a victory over differences of opinion with a successful prisoner swap in November.

Maintaining neutrality in the face of all conflicts, the ICRC arranged the exchange of 94 Angolans, one Soviet, a Cuban, five Cuban and Soviet bodies, two Soviet airmen, three United States citizens, and the remains of two South African soldiers.

The exchange took place after more than a year of negotiations by the ICRC and seven parties including, South Africa, Cuba, Angola, the USSR, the USA, Unita and Zambia.

ICRC reports issued this year made it clear that much of its work was less glamorous.

With half of the world's 10 million refugees now in Africa and many of these in Southern Africa, the ICRC was more than busy in 1982.

A source of concern was displaced people in Angola where two major incursions and several other minor ones had widespread

repercussions. Countless attacks and counter-attacks left hundreds of villagers dead and wounded.

At least 160 000 people were reported homeless in Angola's central regions. With no means of support they relied heavily on the United Nations and the ICRC.

Using its newly-established centre at N'Giva the ICRC set up medical facilities and a tracing agency to help reunite families.

More than 120 000 displaced people have been regularly benefiting from emergency assistance from the ICRC in the eastern provinces of Huambo and Bie.

## NUTRITION

Landbridge operations and other nutrition programmes resulted in the distribution of at least 1 250 tons of food and relief supplies.

Three nutritional centres are now operating in Angola to provide gravely malnourished children with food and medical treatment for up to six weeks to get them on their feet again.

Several attacks on

ICRC stations in Angola however, led to the suspension of its activities in October. These have still to be resumed.

In May, a nurse, Mary Jose Burnier (26) was kidnapped and later released by Unita in September. She was one of 15 people from various countries kidnapped in Angola and released in September.

Since then Unita has released a French nun, a Dutch missionary and a Catholic archbishop. Unita communiques from Lisbon have said that 50 others were still being held, including seven Angolan nurses.

The Bomba Alta orthopaedic centre in Huambo was rocked by grenade explosions in July resulting in extensive damage.

In October, seven ICRC employees were abducted in southern Angola. Four are still missing.

On another front, the ICRC has evaluated the situation in two Mozambique regions, Manica and Sofala, with a view to aid.

Surveys carried out revealed civilians were short of food and medical assistance.

Mozambique, including the north, once a Frelimo stronghold, became an increasingly hot spot this year with a rapid increase in sabotage.

On a less visible level, the ICRC has been deeply concerned with security prisoners in South Africa this year.

Since 1963 it has visited limited categories of security prisoners once a year.

## SECURITY

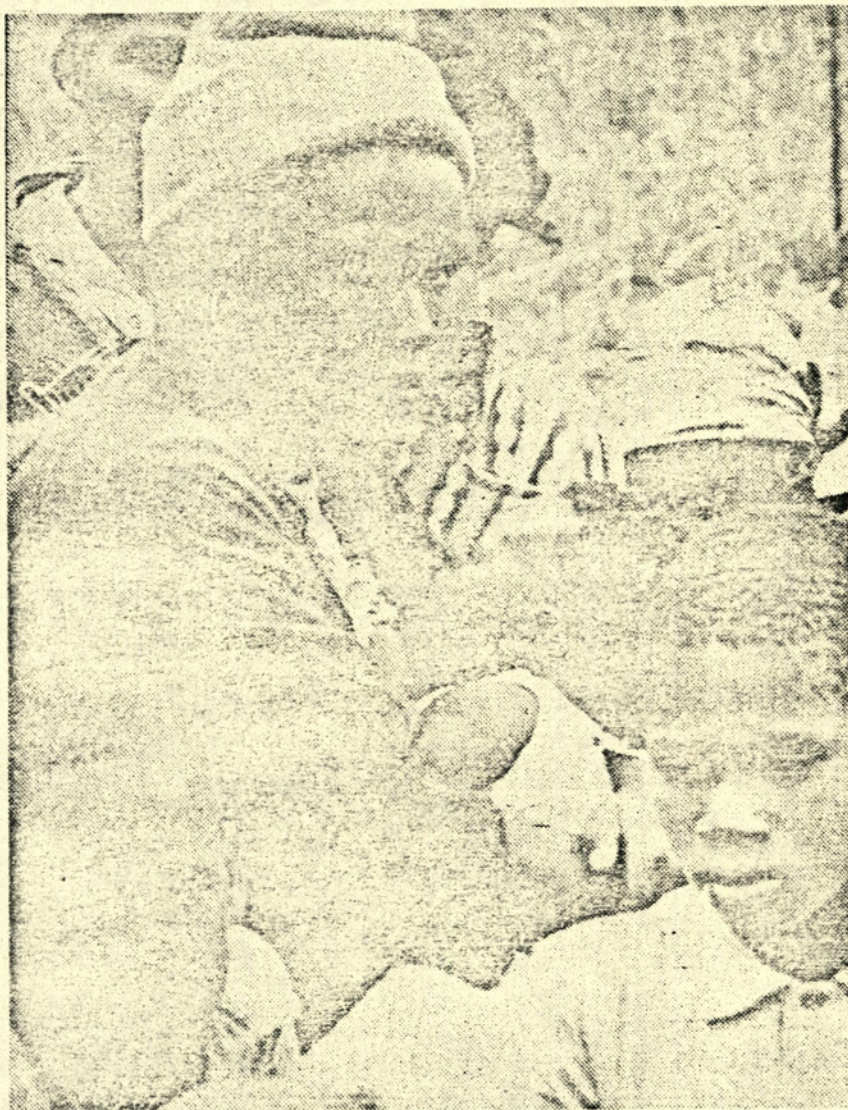
During September, Pretoria delegates with a doctor from Geneva visited 10 detention centres in South Africa and saw 413 convicted security prisoners and two detainees held under Section 28 of the Internal Security Act.

All visits were carried out in accordance with ICRC procedures without witnesses.

A little further afield the Delegate-General for Africa, Mr Jean-Marc Bornet and a team of people including a doctor visited 136 detainees and 114 POWs held by South Africa in Namibia on several occasions.

The group also arranged for security detainees in a camp at Mariental to be able to





At least 160 000 people were left homeless as a result of the war in Angola this year.

get visits from and to correspond with members of their families.

The ICRC has funded and organised travel arrangements for family members as it did for the families of South African security prisoners.

One of its main aims — already achieved to some extent in the Middle East and several Latin

American countries — is to get more access to more categories of security prisoners here.

As a neutral body, the ICRC is not interested in the reasons for the detention of security prisoners but in the conditions in which they are held.

At present it has access to convicted secu-

rity prisoners but no access to those arrested under the Internal Security Act awaiting trial, detainees and state witnesses.

It is these prisoners that will form the subject of behind-the-scenes negotiations between the ICRC and the South African Government in the new year.



# Hendrickse calls for matric pass rate inquiry

*The Daily News Dec. 31, 1982*

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Daily News Correspondent

CAPE TOWN: The 67,3 percent pass rate for Coloured matric pupils has evoked widespread dissatisfaction and the leader of the Labour Party, the Rev. Alan Hendrickse, has called for a Government commission of inquiry.

Of the 10 207 pupils who wrote the exams, 6 868 passed and 1 696 obtained a matriculation exemption. Twenty-six pupils obtained A aggregate.

"There should be an immediate commission of inquiry, independent of the Department of Internal Affairs. This is not satisfactory and we must now establish what the causes are," said Mr Hendrickse.

Last year only about 56 percent of Coloured pupils passed their matric exams and the authorities said it was the after effect of the 1980 school boycotts.

"Enough time has now elapsed since the boycotts for improvement," said Mr Hendrickse.

In 1979 there was an 86 percent pass rate for Coloured pupils. This dropped to about 63 percent the following year when children were engaged in mass boycotts.

The results for white matriculants showed 93 percent passed and 43,51 percent obtained matriculation exemption.

Mr Tian van der Merwe, Western Cape chairman of the PFP, accused the Government of causing turmoil and disruption in the Coloured community.

"It is an indication that when the Government blamed the boycotts it was not the full story. There must be other causes and I have no doubt they are fundamentally political.

"There has been disruption in the Coloured community over many years, causing political turmoil."

In a statement Mr Franklin Sonn, president of the Union of Teachers' Associations of South Africa (Utasa), said the low pass rate was particularly disappointing when compared with about 80 percent for this year's Indian matriculants.

"The Department of Internal Affairs must accept responsibility for this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

"The Government will be well advised to accept all the recommendations of the De Lange report (on education) to overcome the malaise in education of which these poor results are an important symptom," he said.

However, the Director of Coloured Education, Mr A.J. Arendse, described the results as a "noteworthy improvement" which is "very encouraging".



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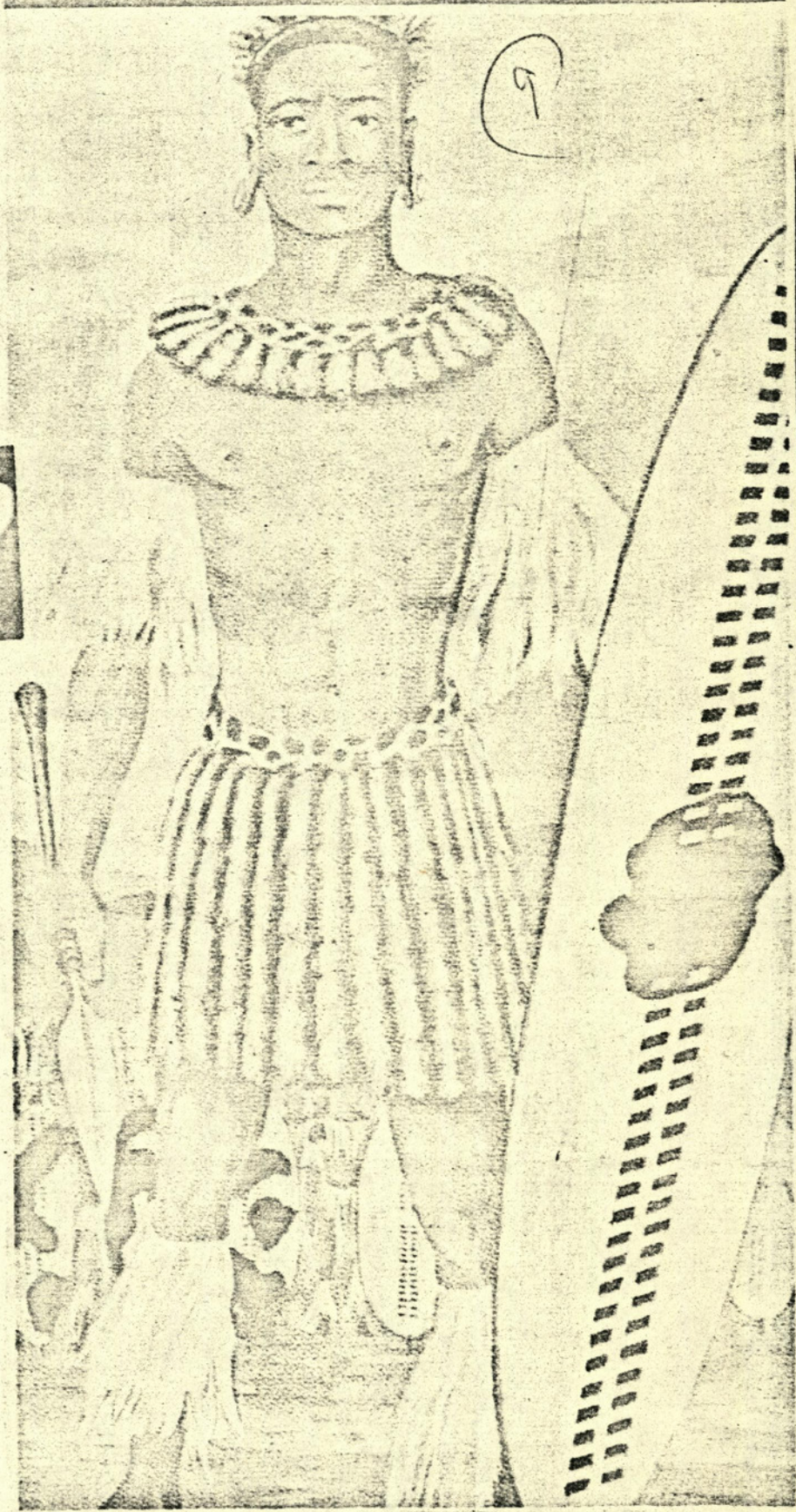
# Who will be Shaka

the

# Superstar?

Fame and fortune await the actor who will be chosen to play Shaka in the SABC's film epic. Read all about it on Page Four

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# 20 000 may re-write matric next year

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About 20 000 black matriculation students will sit for the February supplementary examination in an attempt to improve their symbols to allow them university entry.

The Department of Education and Training said yesterday it was not "altogether satisfied" with the overall results of black matriculants this year and that ways and means would be looked into to improve the quality of black education.

The department announced that only 50,2 percent of the 60 175 candidates who sat for the examination had obtained a pass mark, while another 10,4 percent had qualified for matriculation exemption.

The results of 280 candidates were still outstanding and would be made available with-

in the next few days, it added.

Three candidates each obtained three distinctions and 13 students obtained two distinctions in the end-year examination.

Commenting on the results in a statement in Pretoria yesterday, the department said:

"The Department of Education and Training is not altogether satisfied with the overall performance of its candidates.

## Results

"The results in each subject and in each school will be analysed carefully to enable regional directors to devise special programmes aimed at improving the quality of education.

"Particular attention will be given to matters such as guidance on the choice of subjects with a view to career-oriented education, the choice of higher grade and standard grade subjects, the strengthening of control at schools,

proper guidance to heads of departments and teachers, and to meaningful in-service training courses as well as regular guidance by panels of subject advisers in every region."

"It is expected that approximately 20 000 candidates will sit for the supplementary examination in February and March 1983 and that the pass rate will eventually be an improvement on the 53,5 percent passes and 12,7 percent exemptions recorded after the supplementary examination in February and March 1982," the department said.

The Northern Transvaal region has produced more than 40 distinctions in the matric results.

The region, which includes Pretoria, Warmbaths, and iPetersburg, scored 48 distinctions. The pupils gained distinctions in business economics (standard grade), Mathematics (higher grade), Biblical studies (standard grade and history higher grade). — Sapa.



WHILE the participation or otherwise of the Labour Party in the new constitutional set-up is of considerable importance to the Government — insofar as it will give its plans some credibility and increase its chances of workability in the short-term — it is of little consequence in determining the broader response of the coloured community and the future prospects of the plans.

The Labour Party appears to have only minimal support in the urban coloured community, although it still has some sort of political power-base in the more conservative rural areas through its participation on the Government-sanctioned management committee system.

But in the densely-populated Cape Flats — where the Government's plan will stand or fall — political mobilisation has moved to the grassroots level where an increasingly powerful coalition of democratically-structured community organisations, civic bodies and trade unions are winning respect in their fight for a better deal on bread-and-butter issues.

The Cape Areas Housing Co-ordinating Committee (Cahac) is a long name for the body that co-ordinates the activities of 24 civic bodies active in the coloured townships.

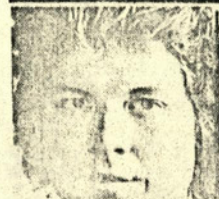
In a rents action earlier this year Cahac collected 41 000 signatures from angered residents giving some indication of its support in the community when a campaign is underway.

At a recent meeting with the chairman, national secretary and two members of the steering committee, I sought the organisation's attitudes to the Government's constitutional proposals and what role they were likely to play in attempts to implement the proposals.

The four people I met with asked that their names should not be published and that the views expressed should be regarded as representative of the organisation. So I will refer to them as the committee.

The committee was highly sceptical of the findings of Prof Lawrence Schlemmer of the University of Natal in a survey in September that 70% of the coloured community were in favour of political parties or groupings co-operating with the plans to secure a better deal, while 39% were prepared to go into the

# Gearing up for a boycott of reform plans



A coalition of civic bodies, community organisations and trade unions has emerged as a powerful political force in the coloured community. In his third and final report on the constitutional proposals, Political Correspondent JOHN BATTERSBY met with the steering committee of a group which co-ordinates the activities of 24 civic bodies on the Cape Flats.

system to improve it.

"If one looks at the propaganda that was being projected around the proposals at the time of the survey the findings are perhaps understandable," the committee said.

"We don't have a television network and we don't control the media so what we can do is very limited by comparison. Pitching questions at people does not always secure an accurate reflection of what people are thinking. We don't think one needs to attach much weight to a survey like that."

They said, however, that there were not that many people in the community who had a total understanding of the Government's plans and Cahac faced an educational challenge to expose the proposals for what they were.

"At this point people in the community do not perceive the threat of the PC (President's Council) proposals in the same way the leadership does.

"The activity so far has been fairly low-key. But it will pick up in time. A lot will depend on the credibility of the community organisations and the conditions in the community at the time.

"There have been suggestions of setting-up anti-PC committees and conducting workshops on the proposals as part of an educa-

tional campaign," the committee said.

The committee said that the PC proposals had been rejected by Cahac following a community workshop in June.

The proposals were rejected on the grounds that:

- The Government was seeking to co-opt coloureds and Indians to assist in the border war.
- They would not prevent increased unemployment and guarantee work in a recession.
- They would not assist in allowing workers to join the trade unions of their choice.
- They would not restore residential areas that had been taken away from the people nor enable them to live where they chose nor make better accommodation available at prices the people could afford.
- They would not guarantee better educational facilities nor redress the injustices that had precipitated the 1980 uprisings in the schools.

"In short it was agreed that the proposals were not intended to change the conditions that govern our lives," the committee said.

"On the contrary it was decided that the proposals were designed to separate the elite from the broader mass of the people and to break the growing unity among all sections of the oppressed.

"The proposals are little more than an attempt by the ruling elite to buy time," the committee said.

The committee said that the democratic trade unions had not come out very strongly on the PC proposals, because by the nature of their membership they were involved in more immediate issues and had responded strongly to the Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons Bill which was part of the same deal.

Cahac said, however, that when it came to mobilising the community there would be liaison with not only trade unions, but all the major churches — which had rejected the proposals — as well as other community organisations.

"Cahac will seek alliances with all those who stand in opposition to the Government's constitutional proposals," the committee said.

The Cahac committee stressed, however, that resistance would have to be preceded by a thorough educational programme and it would have to be broad-based.

Another community worker not connected with Cahac said that the holding of elections on the Cape Flats would give the community a badly-needed issue to unite on.

"1981 has been a quiet year in the community and people are looking for an issue to take up.

"I think the constitutional proposals could become a major issue if the Government tries to implement them next year.

"But we will need to build up a sound basis for our rejection — possibly by insisting on a referendum before proceeding with further action.

"If the request for a referendum is rejected — as it is sure to be — we would have a more solid base for a boycott campaign," he said.

"The potential in the community is very strong and I could foresee an even more successful result than the anti-SAIC campaign which produced about an 8% poll," he said.

The overwhelming conclusion that can be drawn from the range of people that I spoke to is that as long as racial identity, and apartheid in the form of the Group Areas Act, the Separate Amenities Act and the Mixed Marriages Act, form the basis of a new constitutional dispensation, it will be rejected with contempt by the vast majority of the coloured community.