

NEWS

PW safari: 'now blacks expect reform'

JOHANNESBURG — State President P.W. Botha's African excursions had brought heightened expectations of real reform which would have to be fulfilled now, otherwise revolutionaries would dominate in black South Africa, Inkatha leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday.

He also warned the government's denial of the existence of a black majority was standing in the way of progress towards a political solution.

"This blindness to reality is both deliberate and destructive," the KwaZulu Chief Minister told the SA Institute of Management.

Everyone knew there was an underlying process towards securing agreement on a unified South Africa, he said. But the government was attempting to deny it. "Not only does it deny that there is a black majority and then go on to develop political structures as though there are only 10 black minorities, one white minority, one Indian minority and one coloured minority, but it goes on to deny that there could even be a multiracial majority," he said. — Sapa.

'Abducted' children return home

Witness Reporter
TWO children, reported by police to have been kidnapped after a home was petrol-bombed in Hammarsdale, had in fact fled the house for their safety and returned a few hours later.

In connection with the incident, which occurred on Monday, police originally said: "At George-dale (Hammarsdale) a

dale (Hammarsdale) a group attacked a private house with petrol bombs. The group then abducted two children aged four and seven years."

Despite requests, no further details were given and the police refused to name the children or disclose the address they had been abducted from.

The Natal Witness approached a local councillor in Hammarsdale, Mr Zakheli Nkehli, who is also an Inkatha Central Committee member, for further information.

Mr Nkehli blamed the United Democratic Front for the incident and said the children were being held by their kidnappers and pumped full of anti-Inkatha ideas.

However, police told The Natal Witness yesterday their original report was incorrect and that the children had returned home after the attack.

Maqongqo chief to ask for more land to accommodate refugees

Witness Reporter
THE local chief of Maqongqo, near Table Mountain, is to request more land from the KwaZulu and South African authorities so he can accommodate people fleeing from the political violence in and around Pietermaritzburg's townships.

About 500 families have already sought refuge under Mr Mhlabunzima Maphumulo, who has been praised from all quarters for letting people of varying political persuasions settle in his area.

Speaking to The Natal Witness, Mr Maphumulo said there was strong op-

position to his neutral stance, particularly from chiefs ruling in the war-torn Mpumalanga areas.

"They say I must not accept UDF supporters in my community, but I am not prepared to get involved in party politics like they do," he said.

He said a lot of people had fled into

his area seeking safety.

"Some have had their homes burned down. Others have lost all their family members. I can't turn them away, but I have not enough land anymore.

"At first it was mainly Inkatha members, but now it is mostly UDF and neutral people. I have not had any trouble

from them. They are so tired of this violence."

Although Maqongqo is a rural area about 20 km from the city centre, Mr Maphumulo said he was hoping to see it urbanised in the next few years.

"Eskom gave us electricity about three months ago and a water project is coming up soon.

"I am looking forward to the time when development planners can come out and survey the area and we have already approached Azalea (Azalea Housing Utility Services) about providing houses," Mr Maphumulo said.

Reacting to reports that people seeking refuge in Maqongqo were requested to pay him money, Mr Maphumulo said: "People are not made to pay money to live in the area, but in our tradition they are expected to pay 'khonza' — a tribute to the chief — just like when they leave the area they are supposed to pay 'valelisa' to the chief they have been staying under," he said.

"Few people are paying 'valelisa' these days, because they are fleeing from attacks on them.

"A goat is sufficient for 'khonza', but if a person does not have one, then a small amount of money, depending on the person's circumstances, is expected," he said.

He said he would not accept a single person on his or her own, unless a kraal head (head of a household) had accepted the person.

"They must first go to the induna of the area. The induna then takes them to me," Mr Maphumulo said.

Commissioner to probe allegations of police assault

Witness Reporter
THE commissioner of the KwaZulu Police, Brigadier Dries Laas, has asked for affidavits detailing allegations that KZP members have been involved in escalating violence in kwaMakhutha, south of Durban.

Last weekend, five people died in a single incident in the area, and there has been growing tension since then.

A number of relatives have given statements to their lawyer detailing allegations of vigilante and KZP involvement in some of the incidents. The lawyer, Ms Linda Zama, contacted Brigadier Laas about the problem.

He confirmed that he had asked for details, and had sent reinforcements in.

The residents of Ward One and Adams who visited the lawyer's office, said they were living in fear of people who claimed they wanted to "rid the area of UDF members".

They said they were not members of any political group.

Pupils were no longer going to school as they were afraid they would be sought out and abducted and many residents had fled the area.

Ms Zama said she was handling 20 civil claims against the KZP for assault.

She said yesterday that since her call to Brigadier Laas she had heard of no new incidents.



A delegation of women yesterday visited the offices of the KwaZulu urban representative, Mr V.V. Mvelase, to complain about attacks on them. They reported the stabbing of a 70-year-old woman in Sinathingi, and said UDF youths were responsible. Third from the left is the elderly woman's daughter, Mrs Elizabeth Mhlongo. Mr Mvelase is second from the right.

Only at

Joshua Doore

Out of at least 14 people killed in political violence in Natal this month, only one — Mr Bulawayo Makobha — has been identified as an Inkatha member. Mr Mvelase said he had no knowledge of any other deaths.

While three other were known to be UDF members, the political affiliations of the remainder are not known, and names have not been forthcoming from either community sources or police.

Police reported only two unrest incidents in Natal yesterday, in which one man was killed.

In kwaMakhutha (Amanzimtoti) a group of people attacked a house and fired shots at it. A vehicle was then set alight. One man was killed and another wounded.

In Mpumalanga arsonists damaged a house.

At Kallahong (East Rand) a number of private and delivery vehicles were damaged by stone throwers. In one of these incidents a white man sustained slight injuries.

Seminar on township violence

CONTINUING violence in the country's black townships will be the focus of a two-day national seminar in Durban this weekend.

The seminar has been planned jointly by the Um-tapo Centre's information and research unit, the Centre for the Enrichment of African Political Affairs and the research unit of the Educational Opportunities Council.

The seminar will be held at the Athlone Hotel at 9 am on Saturday and the cost is R20 a delegate. For further details contact Durban 312888. — WR.