

Most unions hit by recession

Lost jobs cut
into Cosatu's
membership

As

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COSATU until recently the fastest
growing trade union federation in the
world could be experiencing an
overall decline in membership as a
result of massive retrenchments.

Cosatu spokesman Neil Coleman said
the overall rate of growth of Cosatu had
definitely slowed down due to retrench-
ments arising out of the recession.

But he said the overall growth trajec-
tory was upward as the federation was
making gains in previously unorganised
areas. He cited the public sector and the
agricultural sector as two areas where
Cosatu was making inroads.

But sources in Cosatu affiliates said that,
although there were new growth areas, the
impact of retrenchments on Cosatu had

[~ DIRK HARTFORD i 2

been massive and there was a real fear -
that the federation was currently in a neg-
ative growth phase.

Cosatu's major affiliates the
Numsa and the SA Clothing and Textile
Workers Union (Sactwu), which collective-

ly represent more than half of Cosatu's

total membership â\200\224 have all suffered heavily from retrenchments. :

Both the NUM and Numsa have also made significant gains in new areas. The . NUM has picked up tens of thousands of members in platinum mines in the past year and Numsa has recently gained â\200\234thousandsâ\200\235 of members in the motor industry â\200\224 where it recently balloted for strike action. i '

- And Sactwu, which has organised about 90% of the hard-hit clothing and textile

- industry, has made gains in the leather industry.

Nevertheless, an estimated 35 000 workers in the steel and engineering industry will be retrenched this year, the same number as were retrenched last year.

And at least 20 000 workers will have been retrenched in the mining industry by the end of the year.

In the clothing and textile industry, about 20 000 workers are also ex to - have been retrenched by the year-end.

In all these sectors, the forecasts are of even more retrenchments. :

The situation iis not lâ\200\230!'xlucgnl;etter in th: service sectors. Cosatg unions orï~\201ising

O To P*o 2 &

Leiers het be

Politieke redaksie

PRETORIA. - In â\200\230sekere kringe in gj

die buiteland en selfs onder Afrika-

leiers is groot begrip vir hoofminis--

. ter Mangosuthu Buthelezi se hou- .
ding oor onderhandelinge, sÃ© mn. 5
Pik Botha, Minister van Buitelandse,
Sake.

Verskeie Europese leiers en Afri- -
ka-leiers het by die ondertekening
van die Mosambiekse vredesooreen-..
koms in Rome sterk belangstelling,Â»
in die situasie in Suid-Afrika enâ\200\231
veral dr. Buthelezi se posisie getoon.

Min. Botha sÃ© baie beskou dit as
'n nuwe struikelblok in die weg van

grip vir Buthelezi, sÃ© Pik

onderhandelinge. Hy het aan hulle
verduidelik, hoekom dr. Buthelezi
e standpunt ingeneem het, en die
saak in perspektief probeer plaas.

Min. Botha het gister op â\200\231'n nuus-
konferensie op die lughawe Jan
Smuts gepraat ni sy besoek van
vier dae aan Rome, waar hy die
ondertekening bygewoon het.

. Die gebeure in Angola en Mosam-
biek is 'n uitdaging aan Suid-Afrika
om die geweld in die land te beÃ©in-
dig. Buurlande verwag van Suid-
Afrika om 'n groot rol te speel in
die ekonomiese heropbou van die
streek.

Min. Botha sÃ© die ooreenkoms
aan die weg vir verskeie nuwe
moontlikhede in Mosambiek, Handel
kan toeneem, die herstel van die
Cahora Bassa-projek kan duisende
nuwe werkgeleenthede skep en va-
kansiegangers van Suid-Afrika kan
00k toeneem. i

Min. Botha het in Rome ook 'n
kort gesprek met pres. Robert Muga-

be van Zimbabwe gevoer. Die voor- -

uitsigte vir diplomatieke betrekkin-
ge met Zimbabwe ig goed, maar

uid-Afrika sal nie â\200\234drukâ\200\235 daarvoor
nie. Sake moet hul natuurlike ver-
loop neem, sÃ© hy..

Kerksakeverslaggewer

SOVEEL as wat in die huidige .
grondwet van Suid-Afrika oor die
Christendom of die Drie-enige God'
gesÃ© word, moet in 'n nuwe grond-
wet behoue bly, is die standpunt -
van dr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi oor -
godsdiensvryheid en die nuwe
grondwet. i)

Hy het in 'n-onderhoud met Die
Kerkbode, weeklikse koerant van
die NG Kerk, na aanleiding van -
spanning oor huidige onderhande-
lings, onder meer oor sy Christelike
standpunte gepraat.

Hy het gesÃ© godsdiensvryheid is
die vryheid van mense om God (hul
Maker) te aanbid op die wyse wat
vir almal aanvaarbaar is. Soveel as
wat in die huidige Grondwet oor die

Christendom gesÃ© word, moet in 'n
nuwe grondwet behou word.

â\200\234Omdat ek 'n Christen is, het ek
nog altyd geglo dat ons ons proble-
me op â\200\231'n_ vreedsame wyse kan
oplos. Ek glo dat God in beheer is.
Ondanks al die negatiewe gebeure
op die oomblik, hou ek steeds vas
aan die hoop in die lewende God.
Ons as Christene kan diÃ© hoop nie

- laat vaar nie.

â\200\234Meer as 70% van die Zoeloe-volk

â\200\230is Christene. Die Anglikaanse Kerk
-hier was die eerste om 'n swart
- biskop, dr. Alpheus Zulu, op te '

lewer. Nog 'n swart biskop is Lau-
rence Zulu. Duisende afgeskeide ker-
ke bestaan in Zoeloeland en hulle
vermeerder steeds,â\200\235 het dr. Buthele-

zi gesÃ©... .

DR. BUTHELEZI

|

Level the play

Are there really no black or white
sportswomen in South Africa?

No women runners, cyclists,
swimmers, golfers, netball players,
tennis players, softball, bowls,
mountaineers, hockey players?

Where are our women! Where are
the sponsors? I'd like to see our
sportswomen regularly on the TV
screen during prime-time news
coverage.

How long will it still take
â\200\234TopSportâ\200\235 to â\200\234level those playing
fieldsâ\200\235 and give women's sport a fair
deal in media exposure?

Noreen Auerbach

Berea

â\200\234Ethel the Aardvarkâ\200\235 van
Aarde.

Letters

Say no, SABC

Just as we, the weary punch-drunk
viewers eventually persuaded M-Net
to dispose of the shouted inanities of
John Robbieâ\200\231s rugby commentary, so
too we will eventually persuade auntie
SABC to deliver that wistful â\200\234Big Bad
Old Trollâ\200\235 Quirk, â\200\234Ethel the
Aardvarkâ\200\235 van Aarde and the
excruciatingly hyperbelous â\200\234Captain
Marvellousâ\200\235 Locke back to the claying
mud of mediocrity from whence they
came.
Keep up the good work...!

Jock
Member of the Wolfaart/Costa
Untag Syndicate
Lombardy East

i

â\200\234Captain Marvellousâ\200\235 Locke.

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Pay respect

Depeche Mode may feel that certain
Christian practices are harmful to
society.

Yet, surely, they must recognise the
beauty in the idea that one man's
supreme self-sacrifice can be the
salvation of many.

Even if one does not believe in the
reality of an idea, one can still respect
its beauty. Some of the images of
"Enjoy the Silence" could have been
omitted, if not for theological reasons,
then for aesthetic.

Those images were like sand in a
bowl of strawberries and cream.

Peter Horszowski
Johannesburg

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it should have been twins!

Â» GEMINI *
with the

MAAKMYSIEKFABRIEK

400 left homeless after fire sweeps
through Grabouw, squatter, settlement

/.Mvwi-\\201
DALE KNEEN
Weekend Argus Reporter
ABOUT 400 people have been left homeless after a
fire swept through a squatter settlement at Grabouw and razed their homes.

Two people, an elderly woman and a child, were slightly injured in the fire at the settlement adjacent to Old Cape Road about 2am yesterday.

Mrs Sophie Zozo, whose spectacles were burnt, cut her right leg and an unidentified child was treated for a respiratory problem after inhaling fumes.

Some of the 50 burnt shacks had just been rebuilt after municipal workers demolished them two weeks ago.

The settlement is close to another squatter area where municipal workers wearing Ku Klux Klan-style hoods demolished shacks on Wednesday.

Most of the people living in the settlement are from Ciskei and Transkei and many of the men are

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employed as labourers on farms nearby.
community leaders attempted to establish how
the fire began as squatters began re-erecting
shacks among smouldering debris yesterday after-

noon.
g/lr John Lackay, of the Grabouw Community Organisation (Graco), said he suspected the fire was a part of a plan to get rid of the squatters. Many of the people living in the settlement, however, placed the blame on a man with a history of erratic behaviour whom they described as insane. v

Mr Phillip Nopulula, 30, said he was almost asleep when he heard someone scream: 'Get out, get out, there's a house on fire!'

He said he got dressed and went outside to in-

investigate and saw â\200\234huge flamesâ\200\235 coming from the house where the â\200\234insane manâ\200\235 lived.

â\200\234A group of men had gathered around the house and were telling people to fetch water to put out the fire,â\200\235 said Mr Nopulula. â\200\234I ran to some of the houses to wake people up and try get them out of their houses before I went back to mine.

â\200\234I managed to get my wife, Patricia, and two children out of the house as well as some clothing.

â\200\234Fortunately the fire had been put out before it reached my house, but other people were not that lucky. They have lost everything.â\200\235

(] DEVASTATION: Right, Mr Gaylard Nebelele with son Thandikaya at the spot where their home once stood.

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DAVID C. TURNLEY/Detroit Free Press

Lephinah and Aiken Zondo, parents of Andrew Zondo, who was hanged for planting a bomb that killed five.

s ~ â\200\224â\200\224
Little do the people /Y

znow how ['ve ridden this
ANC horse lor years to carry i , } i
wl6 SACP to final victory) .

in the hidden agenda V4

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stakes.

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Even an old Interest
Noleon: Is ~ || war horse like me can
definitely the best teach .hJS son a trick or two
hopse for our fakare 1 when lt pomes_to the wisdom
of sanctions and
investment.

Â» No.16 SLO EOE
No. 15
| PATRIOTIC FRONTRS

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MASSACTIO

g P L 2 am
Vs always nexu to Chris HANI
y - in public?

ls Madiba, e SR Y i S Careful
nearly all the g ; No wonder e t}}at you donâ\200\231t
the ANC team 4&" they call this race - bring the house
â\200\230mbers? Isnâ\200\231t it A& A 2 handicap, with fat k e, down Winnie.
~ve had our - cat Joe in the ' ; '
Jockeys? =3

Mercury Reporter
ABOUT 200 black pensioners â\200\224 several blind, others frail with age â\200\224 spent Monday night at the Klaarwater community hall to ensure that they received their pensions yesterday.

A lay preacher, Mr Joseph Mphunyuka, 67, himself a pensioner, led the people with hymns and prayers.

â\200\230Many of the people here have had to walk very far and several were ex-

â\200\234hausted when they arrived.â\200\231
The singing and prayers give the people strength, he said. 3

Mrs Beatrice Khumalo,

62, blind and infirm and wrapped in an old blanket, lay quietly on a bench in the large hall. Her position in the queue was about 150th. -

13

quickly fell asleep on the benches.

â\200\230Sometimdsiâ\200\231.the;Ã@f'tâ\200\230l'e :

-mistakes and old men and women then have to wait till the next payout two months later. Four months without a pension time to suffer, he said.

Pensioners in ult 'i-\201;li '

came from Thornwo

weni, Clermont
as far as Inanda. et
When a Mercury team

visited the Klaarwater .

community hall about 200 people had already found

positions on the ches

that had been set aside for them by the Port Natal Administration. Board. Two

- policemen were on duty.

Mrs Sarina Kumalo of
Klaarwater said the people
were very grateful to be allowed to sleep in the hall.

is a long

hornwood,

~ Inteke, Molweni,

For several the long wait
will be a small sacrifice

poverty.

The pensioners began ar-
'riving on Sunday and
' marked their positions out-
'side the hall with stones
- and cardboard boxes.

When the doors opened on
Monday night they took up

' benches or on the floor of
| the brightly lit hall.

| Mr Mphunyuka said peo-
ple were desperate to se-
~cure good positions in the
queue. :

after almost two months of

'their .positions on the

SEVERAL of the pensioners were exhausted when they arrived at Klaarwater and

Collect

He said the pensioners

. received their payments:
ery second month o
â\200\230\ %drycould do so at three

places between March 10

and 16.

â\200\234The next time they col-
lect their pensions will be
on May 12, that is why even
the very ill are here. It's
their only hope,â\200\231 he said.
One of the problems
faced by latecomers was
that if the pay-out officials

ran out of time or money,

still waiting would
)t;ostf)ld to return the fol-

lowing day. This could in-

olve extra travelling
:xpenses._ which none o0

them can afford, he said.

'Aâ\200\230,_,_—â\200\230â\200\224-â\200\224â\200\230_â\200\231Â»

Long
wait for
black

2

A

~ pensioners

Continized From First Business Page

stamp. Earlier this month Mr. Oppenheimer, who is 74, told a gathering of the American Chamber of Commerce in South Africa that the African National Congress sought

economic system that would destroy everything that we in this room stand for and so business should offer it neither moral support or material

embarrassment at Mr. Rely's actions. Mr. Rely, that is to say, might well have begun filling his own boots at Anglo American - but not without an accom-

pany it is not to be inferred that Mr. Rely is Vie:gtm Smtbgfi-\201awithlesstla\200\230:\200\231nn res) .Leadership, aglmy\200\224b\200\230m ness publication, focused on President P.W. Botha and Mr. Rely in successive cover stories, implying that Mr. Rely's ascendancy in the business world was of the same order as Mr. Botha's political status. For many outsiders and some people inside Anglo American - the question since Oppenheimer's death has been relationship of Anglo American and then from its closely linked sister organization, De Beers Consolidated

Mines Ltd., in 1984 is the extent to which

which his successors have been able to operate autonomously.

Mr. Rely and his counterpart at De Beers, Julian Ogilvie Thompson, find the question mildly irritating because

cause, perhaps, it is the kind of question that chief executives elsewhere might not have to face. But both, in the intricate manner of the upper echelons of 44 Main Street, the corporate headquarters in Johannesburg, His presence, Mr. Rely said of Mr. Oppenheimer's role these days, is always an enormous support and encouragement, and the leadership could not be more satisfactory. I am very lucky indeed that I have him fit and well. I would encourage the fact that While Mr. Oppenheimer withdrew from the chairmanship of both Anglo American and De Beers, he maintains control of his private company, Ernest Oppenheimer & Sons, of which both Mr. Rely and Mr. Ogilvie Thompson are directors, Mr. Oppenheimer's son, Nicholas,

aged 37, is a chairman and
tion
scbeilary of te

De Beers diamond enterprise.

In the ciuino!intarlockiniuÃ@g

ests, Ernest Oppenheimer
owns roughly 8 percent of Anglo
American, which in turn holds 34.2
percent of De Beers, while De Beers
owns a 38.5 percent stake in Anglo.

uan-

';

| Leader Sets Course '!'
| At a Gold Colossus .

Despite the low price of gold, Anglo
American's earnings in the latest fis-
cal year received a great lift in rand
terms because of the low value of the
rand.

. - The group's after-
tax profit in the year, which ended
last March 31, totaled 737 million
rand, from

ity of

so, or someone has to give. Anyway
the ANC seems to be calculating
is whether, with their homes in

... India's judges showed them- and I v
selves more inclined to favour in-

dividual property rights than the
imperatives of social reform.

apartheid land legacy. They de-
bated hotly on how a Bill of rights
could pass muster with the Nats
as regards property and yet serve

without title; and that security '
teed to

of tenure could be guaranteed |
such landholders. Dr van der Walt }

GOVERNMENT land
N - "foxjms" programmes and the

. constitutional protection

; of property rights sound
like different aspects of a single
cause, right?

Wrong and easily a dozen times
wrong, says the land reform
lobby. Nothing is more certain to
hamstring Parliament's ability to
redistribute land and house people
than an unqualified protection of |
property rights in a Bill of rights.

The ANC, itself part of the land
reform campaign, carries a heavy

load for protecting the landless :

and homeless in the constitution-
making process.

It would probably like to purge
the property clause from a future
Bill of rights and after all, some
countries get by without one.
But the National Party and the
'Government would no doubt put
all their muscle into opposing this.
The assurance to white property-

holders that their title is safe has become a virtual refrain of the De Klerk campaign for constitutional change.

~ Furthermore, the South African Law Commission report not only recommends that property rights be protected and that compensation for expropriation in the public interest be referable to the courts, it sees in the Bill of rights a plan for naked and arbitrary nationalisation of

whatever nature without the courts being able to protect prejudiced in any way.

" The Wits Centre | Legal Studies recently convened a

those

conference of organisations who are determined to dismantle the

ANC's draft

for Applied

the dispossessed. L | These were some of the moves, they proposed: i

- @ That land be treated as a spe-

\
cial instance of property and dealt with separately in a Bill of rights. Various lawyers pointed out that property had been taken to mean physical entities such as land and housing; and intangibles | such as copyrights, employment rights, social security benefits and shares in a company. i
Land, it was argued, had particular characteristics that set it | apart from most other property

not least of them its finite quality and its position as an absolute necessity of life. i

@ That certain forms of affirmative action be specifically related to land rights. The ANC's Albie Sachs noted that a Bill of rights could be employed variously as | an offensive and defensive weapon. And several contributors argued that the propertied classes had been outstandingly successful in invoking Bills of rights to defend their property. '

In India a property clause tha

Prime Minister Jawarhalal Neh
â\200\224a convinced socialist â\200\224 regard
ed as the key to implementin
land reform, proved a formidibl
weapon in the hands of the proper-
tied classes. University of 'the

Western Cape legal expert John

Murphy related that India even-
tually

years of wrangling with the Su-

preme Court. Before their repeal '

on land would make the Bill of

dropped the clauses from
the constitution in 1978 â\200\234after 30

Affirmative action provisions

rights a potentially offensive -
weapon for the dispossessed. w
Â® That the question of compensa:
tion be looked at afresh. Firstly,
that it apply not only to th
â\200\230whose land might be expropriateq

- or otherwise removed under the
_â\200\234post-apartheid regime, but also to
histÃ©ric dispossession under apart-

heid. Secondly, that the compensa-
tion level be determined in such a !

way that financial considerations

do not become an insurmountable
obstacle to land reform.

Those arguing for land redistri-
bution flatly rejected the notion of
compensation at market-related |
prices, which applied for 10 years
in Zimbabwe and effectively
throttled the process of land re-
form. The ANC has proposed that
a notion of establishing â\200\234an equi-

* refining â\200\234pluriformâ\200\235

and others propose a land claims
court or tribunal as a means of

ownership.

The ANC, which found itself
under fire from various:quarters

in relation to its original pt'operti¬\202

0se | clause, is

table balance between the public

interest and the interests of those
affectedâ\200\235 should be the basis of

compensation. The Law Commission argues this method defies objective testing by the courts.

@ That the constitution be used to

redirect judges' attention to forms of land rights other than conventional freehold title. The diversity of 'real' land rights 'which re

late to th

WA PEONER CORY. tus bif' constitutionalising, ' he comm

placed side-by-side with the ab- ed. The Left had learnt that

stract notion of ownership embo-

and gain access to land 'm

died in title, argues Unisa's Dr

Andre van der Walt. This means -

a wider range of people would have a claim to land they had occupied ' perhaps for generations

redrafting the land and t. property provisions in its Bill of rights proposal. still incomplete,

the redraft takes account of many

of the above arguments.

It unequivocally protects the homes of all people, rich and poor alike. ; :

It also directs the legislature very clearly to make land laws that will embody the principle of equity and will facilitate 'provision of adequate housing for the whole population'. .

It obliges parliament to set up a land claims tribunal which will, among other things, investigate restoration of land to those sub- 'jected to forced removals or, appropriate 'compensation where restoration is not feasible. L !

A separate property clause is being contemplated. And '202

Sachs hinted that the ANC would not seek State intervention in the

cial property ' ' shares and various business i

ests. 'It' the area least open

government _control of mar,
~ was not viable. â\200\234We think that;
* should be open.â\200\235

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| /There is no way that resolutid
\ o? >land question catrtxl av

hurting somebody:, either ;10
homeless and laggfÃ@sfimm remaj

their business interests guar

might not be prepared to forfei
measure of land â\200\224 against sor
compensation â\200\224 in the name.
righting wrongs and securing
ture society. 0 .

concepts of teed, the present ruling gq%

T AR

Word die steun van die vernaamste rolspelers in die twee kampe bymekaar getel, lyk dit sÃ©: Die Regering en die ANC kan gesamentlik aanspraak maak ;)sp 64%. Die syfer vir die IVP en die KP

14%. :

- Word gekyk na: die 200\231 steun vir: die belangrikste politieke persoonlikhede - pres. F.W. de Klerk, mnr. Nelson Mandela en dr. Buthelezi - word die gaping groter. :

Volgens die RGN-peiling steun 41% van alle kiesers mnr. Mandela. Die syfer vir pres. De Klerk is 24% en diÃ© vir dr. Buthelezi 9%. il

Altesame 56% van alle swartmense steun mnr. Mandela. Pres. De. Klerk

word deur 8% van die swartmense

gesteun en dr. Buthelezi deur 13%.

Pres. De Klerk word deur 58% van die blankes gesteun, 67% van die bruinmense en 66% van die AsiÃ©rs. Mnr. Mandela word deur 1% van die blankes

gesteun, 10% van die bruinmense en 3%.

van die AsiÃ©rs.

Die RGN-peiling bevind dr. Buthelezi se sterkste steun is in die plattelandse gebiede van KwaZulu, waar dit wissel tussen 40 en 45%. In metropolitaanse

MNRV,. MANDELA . . . 41% steun. -

-van dr. Buthelezi se strategie is om - net soos die Regering met die referendum en die ANC met sy veldtog van massa-aksie na die verval van Kodesa 2 - Sy magsbasis te probeer konsolideer en vergroot.

Daarom speel hy op die etniese snaar

o -die 200\235 sowat 200\234agt miljoen - Zoeloes * is *

200\234immers die getalrykste etniese groep. -

N die naweek het dr. Buthelezi onder

i .200\224-meer gesÃ© hy wil aan sowel die Rege-

- Ting as die ANC sÃ©: 200\234Dit is nou jul beurt om te hoor wat ons eise is.200\235

Die Regering sal ongetwyfeld hierna
* luister.
Terselfdertyd is in regeringskringe die
besef dat die vredesmomentum wat op

-~Kemptonpark met die ANC bereik is,
nie verlore kan gaan nie.

'n Bosberaad tussen die Regering en
die ANC - die twee magtigste politieke
rolspelers â\200\224 word dan ook beplan om
verdere stukrag te gee aan pogings om
veelpartyonderhandelinge weer aan die
gang te kry.

Mnr. Cyril Ramaphosa, die sekretaris-

- generaal van die ANC, het die naweek
die hoop uitgespreek dat grondwetlike .
onderhandelinge vÃ©6r die einde van die
Jjaar hervat kan word.

)

Q, Q

e /-

[J Donald Anderson ... wants
~ to hear The Three's opinions

Naidoo.

e e

By Chris Whitfield
BRITISH Labour Party MP Donald Anderson, who arrives in Durban today, will be sent home with a message from black South Africans: 'Help us save the United Democratic Front.'

Dr Farouk Meer, the Natal Indian Congress's Press liaison officer, said the NIC and UDF hoped Mr Anderson would tell the outside world of Minister of Police, Louis le Grange's desire to ban the UDF and there- by eliminate all means to peaceful change.

'We hope that people like Mr Anderson will be able to gain international support for the UDF and help to protect it from the oppressive actions of the South African Government,' he said.

Mr Anderson will be a guest of the UDF during his four-day stay.

He is to join The Three still at the British Consulate 'Paul David, Archie Gumede and Billy Nair' for prayer this evening. He will also try to visit the three men who were detained last weekend as they left the British Consulate. They are NIC members Mewa Ramgobin, George Sewpershad and M J

In Durban tomorrow night, he is to attend a UDF, NIC and United Committee of Concern rally at St Anthony's Hall.

UDF legal representa-

. tives are trying to gain permission for Mr Ander-

son to visit the organisa-

" tionâ\200\231s leaders in deten-
. tion. He will also be |

taken to townships in the
Vaal Triangle and near
Durban.

It was not known yes-
terday whether Mr An-|

derson would meet Gov-

ernment representatives. |

A spokesman for the De-
partment of Foreign Af-

fairs said the Minister, |
Pik Botha, had not been |

asked for an interview
and did not expect a re-
quest.

Dr Meer said The
Threeâ\200\231s legal representa-
tives would discuss the
trioâ\200\231s position and the
role of the British Gov-

ernment. He hoped the |

talks would lead to the
British Government tak-
ing a constructive role to
resolve the impasse.

He hoped Mr Anderson

would be able to impress |

on the Western world the
need to move beyond
mere condemnation of
apartheid and detentions
without trial â\200\234toward ef-
fective action against the
South African Govern-
mentâ\200\235.

â\200\234This is based on the |

premise that Western

countries have huge fi- |
nancial interests here: To |
say they cannot go be-|
yond diplomatic protest |
is to tell blacks they are |

willing to condone apart-
heid,â\200\235 said Dr Me:

ttal i

of the |
Metropolitan (A
tant implications for the future of
local government in SA.
. The reimpositi
cott, the faltering of negotiations
between civic associations and local
authorities and renewed allegations
of black council corruption have be-
come the traditional topography of

" Â»

local government aff

U -1 L airs. AT s A
The chamberâ\200\231s chairman, Van Zyl

Slabbert, describes the real cause of
the breakdown as a â\200\234crisis of deliv-

eryâ\200\235. W :
)â\200\235ir{â\200\231ublic and official expectations
regarding both the provision of town-
ip services â\200\224 which have not im-
proved noticeably in recent months
â\200\224 and the corresponding payment of
rent and tariffs, which have drop
in Greater Soweto from 60% to less
than 30% since December last year,
have not been fulfilled.
*This â\200\234crisis of deliveryâ\200\235, says Slab-
t, is likely to be a recurring
â\200\230theme, on a regional as well as on a
â\200\230national level.
~ Founded as a result of the Greater
â\200\230Soweto Accord of 1990, the metro-
politan chamber was to provide a
model for the way things should be
done. As Council for the Co-ordina-
tion of Local Government Affairs
head Chris Thornhill points out: â\200\234If
the chamber is successful, it could
provide an important negotiating
mechanism for other local authori-
ties in densely populated areasâ\200\235.

r has impor-

of the rent boy-

- of bringing â\200\234

' ADRIAN HADLAND

It was the Thornhill report submitted in 1990 which framed the options for metropolitan forms of government in SA. In the report, it was

envisaged that all the major city

regions in SA should form metropolitan

chambers with the central goal of fragmented communities

ties together to seek a common destiny

and thereby to act as a mechanism

of reconciliation.

But the process of reconciliation

has been hampered by not only

a crisis of delivery but also, says Sibbert, a crisis of legitimacy.

With the Black Local Authorities

Act of 1983 destined for the legislative rubbish heap, and with white

councillors facing six or seven year

terms before the next round of municipal elections, it is difficult to ascertain who is representing who.

The Soweto Civic Association (SCA) has called for the mass resignation of black city councillors as a precondition for the continued life of the chamber and the lifting of the rent boycott. The TPA has rejected this. White city councillors have been

crossing the floor, resigning from

LETTERS

[OSLABBERT

partly caucuses or becoming independents at an alarming rate, unsure

of their parties and constituents.

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- new national

ther there will be a strong

k heï¬\201bite couiicïi'Ã©" â\200\230some of which
ot financially viable â\200\224 particu-

' larlir_ on the Cape coast and Trans- :

vaal â\200\224 have had considerable trou-
ble convincing themselves and their
increasingly militant ratepayers,

that the path towards nonracial met-
" ropolitan government will not affect
â\200\230their own resources too much.

Part of the difficulty is that until a
overnment structure
can be worked out at Codesa, local
government has been left without a
context. It has not been decided whe-
central
government with weak local authori-

ties (as the ANC would prefer) or the .

governmentâ\200\231s preferred option of the

opposite scenario. With both of these

definitions up for grabs, the role of
first-tier metropolitan chambers is
increasingly uncertain.

Slabbert says the sooner an inter-
im government is established and
the earlier nonracial municipal elec-
tions can be held, the better for le-
gitimate local government.

Last week the SCA, citing a lack of
any improvements in services, rising
tariffs and continuing black local au-
thority corruption, pulled out of the
Greater Soweto Principal Parties, a

group responsible for overseeing the

~ chamber withit.

~ Chamber CEO Vic Milne said this
week he was confident that Â»neggï¬\201aâ\200\224

tions could resurrect the chamber in

e Yigae 3 s,
,w{iz-. 2 f g

T
:

the short term. !]

~ As Slabbert points out, â\200\234the cham-
ber was born in crisis, has endured in
crisis and will continue in crisis.
There is no other alternative but to

~ keep on talking. The problems which

the chamber tried to face will con-
tinue to be there and when parties
come round to talking again, as

eventually they must, the problems
will be greater not smaller.â\200\235

Milne believes there are vital lessons to be learnt from the problems experienced by the chamber. â\200\234Most negotiators are going to have to learn from what has happened here. It takes a while to get to know each other, understand problems and find some common ground.â\200\235

Thornhill suggests the chamber was too hasty in its formation and should have concentrated on establishing nonracial local authorities before making the leap to a metropolitan body.]

_The quicker Codesa can establish an interim government and constitution â\200\224 which, unlike the current constitution, includes local government within its ambit â\200\224 the easier it will be to tackle the crises of deliverf' and legitimacy which continue to plague the normalisation of life in SAâ\200\231s

cities and townships.

. From Page 1

| had to work with Nami-
â\200\230| bian authorities to allow
| justice to take its course.
| Mr de Klerk said he
1 had been advised that
| the auditing procedures
/| for secret funds were
| adequate, and that the
'| Auditor General had con-
firmed his 1988/89 report
that the relevant statuto-
ry provisions governing
the Special Defence Ac-
count which funded the

with.

| If the Harms Commis-
| sion showed up inadequa-
/| cies in the auditing and
control systems, they
would â\200\234receive my ur-
gent attentionâ\200\235.
| Mr de Klerk said it
was a pity that the Dem-
ocratic Party had dealt
with the hit squad issues

| mannerâ\200\235 as such matters
| should be dealt with
.| more circumspectly.

â\200\230| = Nothing should be al-
| lowed to stand in the
â\200\230| way of the dynamic pro-
â\200\230| cess of renewal which

.| was in progress, Mr de

â\200\230| Klerk said. â\200\234Unwise
â\200\230| handling of allegations

| and crimes have the ca-

| pacity to become an ob-
' || stacle and cast a shadow

' â\200\230| over exactly that.â\200\235

CCB had been complied

â\200\234in such a sensational

â\200\230| about political murders -

Mr de Klerk:

Mr de Klerk said he
would not be party to the
protection of Ministers if
there was evidence of

â\200\234malpractices or crimes

against them.

But he emphasised
that the opposite was
also true.

General Malan and
General Jannie Gelden-
huys, head of the SADF,
had served South Africa

with great distinction.

The country was indebt-
ed to them and they de-
served better than to be
the subject of a hunt by
innuendo and conjecture.

This point held true for
the security forces also,
Mr de Klerk said, adding
that they should not be
discouraged or plunged
into uncertainty or dis-
honoured.

Lubowski: â\200\230no
trustâ\200\231 between
Malan and FW

President de Klerk
said soon after he took
office he had studied the
workings of the security
forces, including the Spe-
cial Forces, but the CCB
was not mentioned to
him. '

eral Malan had informed
him of the CCB and the
allegations against it.
General Malan informed
President de Klerk and a
few of their colleagues
on the immediate steps
he had taken to investi-
gate the affair. Mr de
Klerk gave instructions
that these investigations
had to go to the heart

â\200\230of the affair. President

de Klerk and the Cabinet
were kept informed.
President de Klerk
said he had, in November
last year, instigated a
full investigation into

covert operations of the
Security Forces, and told '
the Cabinet. He expected
a report on this soon.
Covert operations
needed careful and firm
management, Presidentâ\200\231

de Klerk said. They had
to be limited to the abso-
lute minimum.
Dr Denis Worrall and

.': Dr Zac de Beer, co-lead-
~ers of the Democratic

Party, said the DP were
slightly more pleased
than displeased by what

President de Klerk had
said.

They shared his point -

that criminality would
not be tolerated, and hisâ\200\231
insistance that covert op-

erations would be limit- |

ed. This was a big
change from his prede-
cessor, they said.

The assuring of Cabi-
net control over covert
operations was very pos-
itive.

They felt the police
and the Harms Commis-

. sion would now get more

co-operation than they
otherwise would have
got from the other gov-
ernment departments.

. They said Pmldent de |

Early in January Gen-

WG ol e

THE head of MklÃ©i-\\202to we
Sizwe, Mr Chris i

terday hinted that
ANC would resume the
armed struggle after April

30 if the Government did

not meet its demands to
. â\200\230Ternove obstacles in the
â\200\230way of negotiationsâ\200\231. '

Addressing more than 2 000
students at the University of
Durban-Westville, he said the
Government still had to re-
- lease all political prisoners,
Frant full indemnity to return.

ng exiles and remove all
forces from the townships.

â\200\230If these commitments are

â\200\231 it will be left to the
members of the ANC to de-
cide whgatlsle{)egr not

ground | n covered
wards the of a con-
stituent assembly.â\200\231

Loyal

Mr Hani reiterated that the
armed struggle had been â\200\230sus-
pendedâ\200\231 and not â\200\230terminatedâ\200\231.

On the role of the mili Â¢
he said the ANC â\200\230total; a:yÃ©-
jected any tion that the
SAD orce should be
the future army of S o

â\200\230It has always been a loyal
subject of the gvshite State and
we cannot e that in a
democraey it become an
army of the people,â\200\231 he said.

Mr Hani added that MK too
wmhld also hgve to be dis-
ban T democracy had
been achieved.

However, he
sa made
_diers and believ
country would not have

raised the
- MK sol-

yes-

the

â\200\230that the

moved towards democracy if
it were not for them.

â\200\230A lot of ple today tend
to belittle &o oo'nh'lbua©on of
Mkhont& we Sizwe and some

s arag-tag army.

â\200\230But through the darkest
hours it has been the con-
science of the pe . The at-
tacks on Sasol, on police
stations and '

al?m" of the SADF imbued
beople with a new hope.

â\200\230Those bomb explosions
which shattered
night in the white suburbs of
Durban, Johannesburg and
Cape Town were a call to ac-
tion,â\200\235 Mr Hani saiq. .

ose in Sou
dictatorships, where army
generals have lead military
Coups against their govern-
ts, must not be allowed to
elop in South Afriea.

Mkhonto we Sizwe chief of
staff Chris Hani addresses
students at the Un

of Durban-Westville yes-
terda

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calm of

wu

Here are a few comments on Hans Pienaar's e
view. In T? ;iel Barnard's book, I. Deacef, uli Bt.; otl;::l(?p
Barnard provides a revealing peek into the
circumstances leading to '94, .November 1

There is deep irony on display in the title.

4. Some

1

He leading up to election in 199

1 B T PR |

sntn
â\200\230der

known as a writer in Brit-

ain than in South Africa,
the land of her birth and the Sub-
ject of much of her writing,

Her first novel, Cross of Gold, was
banned when it was published in the
early Seventies, and her Second, And
They Didn't Die, which was published
by Skotaville last year, was all but
smothered by the local small-publish-
ing-house-poor-publicity Syndrome,

But her anthology of black British
women's writing, Let It Be Told, which
was published by Virago in 1988, has
enjoyed a wide currency in Britain, and
she has written many articles and has
talked at a great many British and Eu-
ropean conferences on the intricacies
of being black and feminist. 224 Subjects
which rouse her to speak passionately, Lauretta Ngcobo

Lauretta, who NOW speaks with a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR by | |
1 ; Mandela Ask former president FW de Klerk to

Barnard's book hides truth |

| destruction of docum

en 20,000 and 30,000 people died during

dictated the
Â¶ 1 this, as he did when he announced :
f i- \201ggz: \r:mgs Mandela himself confirmed this

in writing:

Barnard has done the cause of history a
| disgraceful disservice by overseeing the

wents he had no right
to destroy. e

AJ Konigkramer

seriously. â\200\234I started working on a ram-
bling story that became my first novel,
of Goldâ\200\235, which she describes as
;â\200\230ivery much a response to my isolationâ\200\235,

â\200\234Going out of the country I found I
had shut the door; that led to a kind of

struggle against apartheid, but she
Spoke about South Africa on several
platforms, and became involved in
and other issues, = tir
Now, 31 years after she left, she
and her family hope to come back
soon. ;
â\200\234The children want to come back, be-
cause they grew up in an atmosphere
of a family fighting for a cause, but
they are dreading it because they do
not know whether they will fit in.â\200\235
She too has her qualms. She is v
worried about the ongoing violence and

faint British accent, was born in rural political activities in the PAC, â\200\234the the r
ise of tribalism, and she admits
Umzimkulu in 1931. â\200\234I am still very children at the school looked to me shâ\200\230e
now has a foot in both countries,

much rural-based,â\200\235 she says
Like her mother and grandmother Â¶ja] branch.

more and moreâ\200\235 â\200\224 apq so did the spe- â\200\230The weather here is wonderful
to

think about byt terrible to endure. | â\200\230

ore her she attended Inanda semj- In 1963, a teacher tipped her off that love the British w
eather.â\200\235 :
nary â\200\224 â\200\234a much-loved school in our the special branch were about to arrest
But she would like to use her know-
her.

familyâ\200\235 â\200\224 and then read for a BA and

ledge and experience as a teacher to

education diploma at Fort Hare Uni- She fled the country â\200\224 â\200\234I Ã©scaped on help upgrade black education, :
versity, the 11pm KwaZulu train to Swazilandâ\200\235 At the moment she is researching a
She worked for the National Institute â\200\224 and five hours later the police ar- new novel about an African woman of

for Personnel] research of the CSIR in rived at her home,

royal blood who fought the Portuguese.

Pretoria for five years and, after get. After she and her husband spent 4 when they first arrived in Angola about
ting married, returned to Durban few years in various African countries, . 500 years ago. .

Where she taught at Chesterville. they moved to London.

â\200\234I want to show the African woman

After her husband was jailed for his It was there that she began to write Was not-always subordinate.â\200\235

- UMnuz Afred Nzo
kuyambhedela

UMnuz Thabo Mbeki
inkakha kwezangaphandle

UMnuz Joe Modise
cishe angaliboni

UMnuz Harry Gwala
ubhodla amalangabi

UMnuz Chris Hani
yisilomo entsheni

UNKk Winnie Mandela
kalufakwa

lengqungquthelaye-ANC

Ngu:
Chris
Hlongwa

ki, uMnuz Gwala ungophambili
3 kwabalenza lokho.

\\ Nokho njengomuntu osakhi-

Â« â\200\234we kaningi njengesidlamlilo e-
singenakhono lesikhathi sezi-

â\200\234.ngxoxo, nokughakambiswa ko-

\ buholi bakhe kwiSouth African

Communist Party inhlangano
yamakhomanisi, naye kunge-
nzeka angakhethwa njengephi-
ni likamengameli.

UMnuz Zuma uyingxenywe ye-
ANC ephuma ekudingisweni,
uMnuz Gwala uyingxenywe yeqe-
mbu eliphuma ejele. Yize ku-
ngaba nokuphikisana kwaba-
ntu ngeziqu zabo, kodwa wo-
mabili lamagembu asekhombi-
se ukudlondlobala ekukhethe-

lweni ezikhundleni. Akhombi-
sa nokuzwana kwemigondo, u-
ma kughathaniswa nabakade
beyidudula ngaphakathi
kwezwe.

Kuzovela-ke engqungquthe-
leni ukuthi izinhlangano ebezi-
shayisana ngezifuba namaBhu-
nu nodlame, njenge-United De-
mocratic Front (UDF) neCo-
ngress of South African Trade
Unions, kuzihambela kanjani
okhethweni.

Abantu abafana noMnuz A-
rchie Gumede obengomunye
womengameli be-UDF noNkk
Florence Mkhize kuthiwa bazo-
ba kulengqungquthela kuphela
njengezithunywa nje
ezingenavoti. ;

Empeleni eNatal akaveli a-
mathiphu ashisayo abaholi ba-
lezizinhlangano ezizibandaka-
nye iminyaka ne-ANC abanga-

se bakhethelwe ezikhundleni

eziqavile.

Izikhundla-ke ezizobe zidla-
na imilala kuzo, yilezi: esephi-
ni likamengameli (esiphethwe

e e

nguMnuz Mandela), esikano-
bhala jikelele (esiphethwe ngu-
Mnuz Alfred Nzo) nesesekela
lakhe kanye nesikamgcinisi-
khwama jikelele (esiphethwe
nguMnuz Thomas Nkobi).

Abanye abathishwa ukuthi
bozongena kulezizikhundla
ngo:

* Mnuz Walter Sisulu onemi-
nyaka engu 79. Ubalwa kwaba-
nomoya ofanele izingxoxo.
Nguye obethweswe umthwalo
wokuvuselela i-ANC ngaphaka-
thi kwezwe. Kodwa abangene-
liswa ngamagalelo abakholwa
ukuthi akathi shu kuHulumeni,
bamchitha kanye nabanye oku-
thiwa sesidlulile isikhathi sabo.

* Mnuz Hani (49) oyinhloko

yophiko Iwezempi uMkhonto
wesiZwe kusukela ngo 1987.
Uyikhomanisi elinogazi entshe-
ni yona enganasineke
namaBhunu.
* Mnuz Cyril Ramaphosa (39)
ongunobhala jikelele weNatio-
nal Union of Mineworkers.
Usanda kukhethwa ngoâ\200\231elethuâ\200\231

ebuyiselwa esikhundleni sika-
nobhala jikelele kulenyunyana
enamandla. Uyilungu le-ANC
esifundeni saseGoli nasezinda-
weni ezilizungezile.

* Mnuz Popo Molefe (39) oyi-
sekela likasihlalo we-ANC ku-
lesisifunda saseGoli. Ubengu-
nobhala jikelele we-UDF.

* Mfu Arnold Stofile obengu-
nobhala jikelele we-UDF
eBorder.

Abanye baseNatal nabo a-
basebancane ngeminyaka yobu-
dala, abangase bakhethwe ba-
ngene kwiâ\200\231khabhinetheâ\200\231 yaba-
ngu 20 yesigungu ngo:

* Mnuz Blade Nzimande oyilu-
ngu lesigungu se-ANC emapha-
kathi nesifunda. Ufundisa e-
Nyuvesi yaseNatal kanti uzwa-
na kakhulu noMnuz Gwala.

* Mnuz Jeff Radebe osanda ku-
dedelwa eRobben Island. Uyi-
sekela likasihlalo wesifunda e-
siseningizimu. Ubengummeli.

Sekucishe kube yinto esinga-
nakuphikiswa ukuthi kukhona
abaholi asebemnkantshubomvu

okuzothiwa - uma kusetshenzi-
swa amazwi elinye ishoshozela
- mabathole umhlalaphansi no-
ma ngabe kuthiwani.
Abacishe bangaliboni elidla-
layo ngoMnuz Alfred Nzo (66)
ongunobhala jikelele walenhla-
ngano, kanye noMnuz Thomas
Nkobi (69) ongumgcinisikhwa-
ma jikelele. Amalungu alenhla-
ngano ababona bethambe ka-
khulu ezivumelwaneni nama-
Bhunu kanti futhi kungabaze-
ka ngisho nekhono nje labo lo-
kwenza imisebenzi ebhekene
nezikhundla zabo.

Sebengene

Ukhetho-ke luzoghubeka ku-
vele sekukhona abangasalunge-
neli ngenxa yokuthi izikhundla
abakhethelwe kuzo kumanje zi-

bagunyaza ukuthi bafakwe esi-
gungwini sikazwelonke. Bangu
28 kanti bangosihlalo kumbe o-
nobhala bezifunda ezingu 14 ze-
ANC. Bango:

Mnuz Jacob. Zuma noMnuz

â\200\224

Sâ\200\231bu Ndebele (ningizimu Na-
tal), Mnuz Harry Gwala no-
Mnuz Moses Cele (maphakathi
neNatal), Mnuz Terror Lekota
noMnuz Thabo Mokgethoa (ni-
ngizimu ye-Orange Free State),
Mnuz Kgalema Motlanthe no-
Barbara Hogan (eGoli nama-
phethelo), Mnuz Matthew Pho-
sa noMnuz Joe Nkuna (mpu-
malanga Transvaal), Mnuz Za-
chariah Molekane noMnuz Da-
vid Davids (ntshonalanga
Transvaal).

Mnuz Joel Netshitenzhe no-
Mnuz Collins Chabane (nyaka-
tho Transvaal), Ruth Mompoti
noMane Dipico (nyakatho Ca-
pe), Mnuz Christmas Tinto no-
Mnuz Amos Lengisi (ntshona-
langa Cape), Mnuz Benson Fi-
hla noGugile Nkhwithi (mpu-
malanga Cape), Mnuz Arnold
Stofile noLucille Meyer (eBo-
rder), Mnuz Ezra Sigwela no-
Mnuz Phumzile Mayati (Tra-
nskei), Xoliswa Dukuwana no-
Nakana Masoka (nyakatho ye-
Orange Free State).

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LETTERS

South Africa

SIRâ\200\224Xan Smileyâ\200\231s survey on
South Africa (â\200\234The blacksâ\200\231 riseâ\200\235,
February 1st) was not, I hope,
taken seriously. He observes that
â\200\234all will not be lostâ\200\235 if South
Africa is handed over to the pro-
violence African National Con-
gress (ANC). At best, says Mr
Smiley, the ANC would be â\200\234au-

Watch out foi the Zulus

thoritarianâ\200\235. The â\200\234ANC instinct
would be to dominate the press,
the judiciary, the army and the
policeâ\200\235. How right he is. History
has shown that men who use
terrorism as a means to power
invariably rule by terror once
they are in power.

Your survey, alas, forces me to

- defend myself when it compares

me to Zimbabweâ\200\231s Bishop Abel
Muzorewa and Mr Joshua
Nkomo. This is a tactic of deni-
gration used by the ANC in its
broadcasts from Lusaka and else-
where. Your survey omitted to
note that I lead the biggest mem-
bership-based black political
movement in the countryâ\200\224In-
katha. Our paid-up membership

is 1.2m and growingâ\200\224not shrink-
ing. The KwaZulu/Natal option
is not, as your survey puts it,

â\200\234pie-in-the-skyâ\200\235. It is becoming closer and closer to reality.

I am chief minister of South Africaâ\200\231s 7m Zulusâ\200\224the largest ethnic group in the country. I am a direct descendant of the founder of the Zulu nation, King Shaka, and am a traditional as well as an elected leader of my people. Bishop Muzorewa and Mr Nkomo were not, unfortunately for them, in the same position.

You rightly note that I have a large white constituency. What is so wrong with that? Come the day of liberation, when negotiation and reconciliation will be crucial, your survey pours scorn on the idea of a black leader
Â«, . . being suffocated by white kisses . . .â\200\235. Comments such as this come. perilously close to

racism. Y

Ulundi, . MAaNGOSUTHUG.

South Africa BUTHELEZI 4

â\200\224 â\200\224â\200\224â\200\224_nâ\200\224â\200\224â\200\224â\200\224â\200\224 #

emard provrdes a reveahng peek into the ~
tiations leading to â\200\23094, November 30).
re is deep irony on display.in the title.â\200\235

: Mandela. Ask Former presndent FW de Klerk to
- confirm this, as he did when he announced the
; unbanmngs Mandela himself conï¬\201rmed this
in writing:
- Barnard has done the cause of hlstory a
| disgraceful disservice by overseeing the

- destruction of documents he had no right
20,000 and 30,000 people died during | to destroy .
e leading up to election in 199 . Some
{ ful-revolutionâ\200\235 AJ Koniglcamer
â\200\224â\200\224 led' among the dead were rriore than Durban
oe 4 ers' ofha political pelarty that was.in
d 3 tlon_ to the current ru lng party :
o Presndent nukes top ofFâ\200\230 ic

S He writes hIS memoirs on theâ\200\230traï¬\201s '
basis of what he chooses to reveal, while hiding
the critical documents he destroyed from those
who â\200\230might have a different view.

' Barnardâ\200\231s arrogance is breathtaking. Whatever
former president Nelson Maridela might or might

" not have said to him at the start of the Codesa

e S EOURLS Tl o T i RE IR o iRl [I R}

â\200\230 for pubhshmg Anton Eberhard s

Y. the Russians .

was the rumour at the time. of Pravnn

sudden recall from overseas and

sal from the finance ministry.

I am unable to think of Zuma as our presrder
anymore â\200\224 just a despicable saboteur.

He should have been behind bars long ago,
not debasing an honourable title and being
allowed to continue abusing its powers

- beyond imagination.

, Laretta explores plight of black_w57~~

auretta Ngcobo is, ironi-

cally, probably better

known as a writer in Brit-

ain than in South Africa,
the land of her birth and the sub-
ject of much of her writing.

Her first novel, Cross of Gold, was
banned when it was published in the
early seventies, and her second, And
They Didn't Die, which was published
by Skotaville last year, was all but
smothered by the local small-publish-
ing-house-poor-publicity syndrome.

But her anthology of black British
women's writing, Let It Be Told, which
was published by Virago in 1988, has
enjoyed a wide currency in Britain, and
she has written many articles and has
talked at a great many British and Eu-
ropean conferences on the intricacies
of being black and feminist 'subjects'
which rouse her to speak passionately.

Lauretta, who now speaks with a
faint British accent, was born in rural
Umzimkulu in 1931, 'I am still very
much rural-based,' she says .

Like her mother and grandmother
before her she attended Inanda semi-
nary 'a much-loved school in our
family' 'and then read for a BA and
education diploma at Fort Hare Uni-
versity.

She worked for the National Institute
for Personnel research of the CSIR in
Pretoria for five years and, after get-
ting married, returned to Durban
where she taught at Chesterville.

After her husband was jailed for his

Lauretta Ngcobo

political activities in the PAC, 'the
children at the school looked to me
more and more' 'and so did the spe-
cial branch.

In 1963, a teacher tipped her off that
the special branch were about to arrest
her.

She fled the country â\200\224 â\200\234I escaped on the 11pm KwaZulu train to Swazilandâ\200\235 â\200\224 and five hours later the police arrived at her home.

After she and her husband spent a few years in various African countries, .

they moved to London.
It was there that she began to write

seriously. â\200\234I started working on a rambling story that became my first novel, Cross of Goldâ\200\235, which she describes as â\200\234very much a response to my isolationâ\200\235,

â\200\234Going out of the country I found I had shut the door; that led to a kind of internal debate.â\200\235 :

As her husband broke with the PAC, she was not involved directly in the struggle against apartheid, but she

- spoke about South Africa on several

platforms, and became involved in feminist and other issues. :

Now, 31 years after she left, she and her family hope to come back soon.

â\200\234The children want to come back, because they grew up in an atmosphere of a family fighting for a cause, but they are dreading it because they do not know whether they will fit in.â\200\235

She too has her qualms. She is very worried about the ongoing violence and the rise of tribalism, and she admits she now has a foot in both countries.

â\200\234The weather here is wonderful to think about but terrible to endure. I love the British weather.â\200\235

But she would like to use her knowledge and experience as a teacher to help upgrade black education.

At the moment she is researching a new novel about an African woman of royal blood who fought the Portuguese when they first arrived in Angola about 500 years ago. !

â\200\234I want to show the African woman was not-always subordinate.â\200\235

