

DAILY NEWS **WEDNESDAY** NOVEMBER 8 2000

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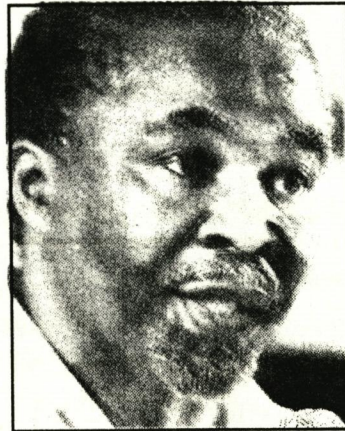
Where your party stands on the issues

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WHERE YOUR PARTY STANDS ON THE ISSUES

ANC to provide free basic services

The African National Congress (ANC) manifesto, as can be expected, highlights its achievements since 1994, and projects its intentions for the period between the forthcoming election and the next one, writes Political Reporter Thabo Masemola.



THABO MBEKI
ANC president

THE ANC promises to provide a free basic level of services like water and electricity for every household. Those who use more than the basic amounts will pay for the extra they use.

The manifesto highlights the introduction of laws such as the Municipal Structures Act and the Municipal Systems Act, which seek to ensure that councillors serve their communities with loyalty and dedication.

Under these laws, all councillors will sign a code of conduct requiring them to report back to their constituencies regularly, fight corruption in tendering, hiring and other government functions and are compelled to declare all their assets and business interests on assumption of office.

Should councillors violate the code of conduct they will be

recalled, the ANC declares. It further promises that councillors will help communities build ward committees as a key to participation and accountability, work with communities to fight crime and eliminate corruption and nepotism from local government.

Women, the youth, the disabled, the aged and workers will have a strong voice in decision-making.

The party will ensure that local government has the powers and resources to provide adequate services, in part by reviewing and strengthening the system of providing

subsidies to local government.

Social partnerships will be forged in the fight against HIV/Aids by accelerating the implementation of the "Together We Can" campaign, with a focus on prevention, large-scale provision of condoms, development of treatment strategies, research and the creation of a supportive, sound and caring social environment.

According to the manifesto, in six years the ANC has brought about a million new houses, more than 500 clinics and free medical care for pregnant women and children under six; 24 000 better classrooms - with one million more children in school; electricity to 2.5 million houses; improved pensions and child welfare grants; tarred roads in former black and rural areas; clean water to six million people and more than 1.8 million new telephone lines.

ANC-led local government promises to ensure local economic growth that benefits the majority and creates jobs. It will improve public transport and build houses closer to economic centres so that people can work closer to home and strengthen local economies by upgrading water, electricity, roads, health

care and security.

It will support national job creation programmes, such as the community-based public works programmes and the department of labour's employment centres, and support community-based enterprises.

The ANC promises to protect and create jobs by developing plans with participation of all stakeholders, in line with the National Framework Agreement for restructuring local government. It will review existing plans and policies that could reduce employment and will find alternatives, provide equitable pay and benefits for all workers, and expand opportunities for skills development for employees.

In matters of security, the ANC promises to ensure that traffic police and municipal security services support the national police in improving community safety.

It will design community infrastructure, especially street lights, buildings and public transport, to ensure the safety of all people.

Finally, the ANC promises to protect the rights of farm workers, and will attack crime at its roots by developing more prosperous, integrated and dynamic communities.

IFP is offering practical solutions

The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) wants local government to be the place where delivery and active community involvement occur. Political Reporter Siphso Khumalo looks at the IFP's election manifesto.

AS THE election frenzy, characterised by catchy phrases and promises geared to win the hearts and minds of the electorate ahead of the local government elections intensifies, the IFP has in its manifesto chosen to offer no promises and to use no catchy phrases.

Instead, the IFP has identified problems associated with the establishment of effective and sound local government structures, saying the biggest challenge is the quality of services available to rural and urban communities.

The party has identified local government as the site for the struggle for development and service delivery.

The IFP's manifesto, titled "Charter for Development", warns that the Government cannot be the sole provider of all services.

Instead, the party urges communities to embrace the



MANGOSUTHU BUTHELEZI
IFP president

philosophy of hard work, self-help and self-reliance.

The party holds the view that a strong community is the cornerstone of a successful and prosperous society.

The IFP says it will, therefore, ensure that decision-making in local government is driven by the community and that decision-making processes are fully transparent to the community.

The party says it recognises that there is a limit to what government alone can achieve, saying even with the most ambitious and effectively-executed plans, the scope of government is limited.

The IFP commits its councillors to working with their communities to create a culture of best practice in service provision and to streamlining service delivery.

For example, says the IFP, it is essential, and the right of everyone, to have access to clean water.

It points out that the Constitution promises water for all, the right of access to clean water for all households and adequate sanitation on site.

The party says it will, therefore, require local government to co-ordinate its activities with those of the provincial government to maximise effective water delivery and to promote water wastage reduction.

In housing, the party commits itself to working with the provincial authorities, the private sector and local communities to develop low-cost, high-quality housing schemes in which local people will play a full and productive role.

In the rural areas the party says it will target poverty by promoting the principles of self-help and self-reliance.

The manifesto also targets crime, describing it as the most important factor in undermining potential for development and deterring investment.

The IFP, therefore, calls for a "moral awakening", arguing that the rebirth of the nation will directly spring from within communities.

The party calls for the uprooting of causes of crime, saying that in uprooting poverty and altering the environment in which crime flourishes, many causes of crime will be removed. The party believes that it is essential that the "decent" majority work together against the activities of the small minority of criminals.

At the local level, the IFP says it will extend the role of community police forums and mobilise a range of institutions of civil society and other sectors of society into one body tasked with doing battle against crime.

The IFP will in local government also build partnerships between private security companies and law-enforcement agencies. The party proposes the development of a comprehensive strategy whereby, for instance, urban planning and development will have to comply with necessary crime fighting requirements by taking into account policing requirements, lighting, access roads, security points and other measures which can improve the safety of the people.

WHERE YOUR PARTY STANDS

ACDP: high moral values are essential

The African Christian Democratic Party, with one member in the provincial legislature, wants to use the local government elections to increase its presence in the province. Political Reporter Siphokhumalo takes a look at the party's manifesto.

DUBBED "Christian Community Transformation," the ACDP election manifesto commits the party to high moral behaviour by its candidates in the delivery of

services.

The ACDP says it will act in support of churches, religious organisations and non-governmental organisations to promote genuine growth in communities. "Our councillors will take part in the civic, spiritual, cultural and social growth of communities, enlisting the aid of relevant leaders in achieving solutions," says the party.

With regards to the creation of jobs, the ACDP feels that government should focus on assisting the development process in all sectors, rather than insisting on a total con-

trol of redistribution.

It calls for the creation of factories close to residential areas, saying that NGO funding can be more effectively used for development.

Outside partnerships can be used to help raise ward development forums, stimulating entrepreneurial development and complimenting existing skills, the party says.

The ACDP will strongly advocate the case for the King Shaka Airport, the new container port and the Tugela Basin Development projects to be brought back on stream.

The ACDP will make the

enhancement of living standards and the development of overall prosperity its objective. Providing people with water will be a priority.

According to the ACDP, its office bearers will adhere to a code of conduct and maintain their lifestyles in an exemplary Christian manner.

The party promises to work with the SAPS, the municipal police, the city police and other agencies to fight crime.

The party will assist the provincial and national governments with the provision of high-grade school facilities.



KENNETH MESHOE
ACDP leader

Death penalty should be reinstated – MF

The Minority Front (MF) has promised to wage a fierce battle in the Durban Metro and elsewhere in the province. Political Reporter Siphon Khumalo presents the party's manifesto.

WITH local government being the third sphere of government closest to the people, the MF believes that local councils should be responsible for providing essential services such as

water, electricity, refuse removal and sanitation.

The MF also believes that local councils should play a social and economic development role by being involved in integrated development planning.

The party wants the councils, with maximum participation of the public, to be involved in the building and maintenance of local roads, regulation of the municipal transport service and maintaining fire stations, markets, abattoirs and cemeteries.

The party says it will entrench a code of conduct for elected councillors so that they are accountable to the community by means of ward committees.

The party also believes that crime is rapidly increasing and threatening to destroy the fabric of the country's new democracy.

Therefore the MF believes that the death penalty should be re-instated, arguing that while capital punishment is not an absolute deterrent, it has a valuable potential to

reduce dangerous crime.

It points out that, while the party embraces the value of human life, murderers cannot be protected at the expense of innocent lives.

Party leader Mr Amichand Rajbansi says his councillors will fight for ratepayers and taxpayers and disadvantaged members of the community.

"The Minority Front has constantly waged a battle for the disadvantaged, demanding, among other things, free services to the poor," says Rajbansi.



AMICHAND RAJBANSI
MF leader

UDM will tackle all forms of corruption

The United Democratic Movement is positioning itself as a lobbying voice for the aged, infirm and jobless in both rural and urban areas, writes Local Government Reporter Alan Cooper.

IN PURSUIT of "clean government," the UDM has undertaken to root out corruption in all its forms, such as

graft, nepotism, dishonesty and entitlement, with merit the sole criterion for advancement in the civil service.

It will engage law enforcement departments to ensure they restore civil order and pressure the Government and the private sector to subsidise low-cost housing and devise creative strategies to halt the decline in healthcare and establish and refurbish health services such as clinics, hospi-

tals and day-care centres, and to acquire and supply retroviral drugs to Aids sufferers, especially pregnant women.

It promises a total overhaul of the welfare system to create an environment where the aged, infirm and disabled are properly catered for.

The UDM will agitate for an increase in State housing subsidies and promote wealth and job creation programmes, particularly in the "grassroots"

small and medium enterprise sectors.

It will engage the Government to give traditional institutions their "rightful place" in society and push for a free basic water supply to underdeveloped rural areas.

The UDM believes that the proposed property tax exacerbates an already intolerable financial burden for the taxpayer and will campaign for a better tax structure.



BANTUBONKE HOLOMISA
UDM leader

WHERE YOUR PARTY STANDS.

Democratic Alliance manifesto makes many promises

Weighing in at more than 40 pages, the Democratic Alliance's (DA) manifesto promises many things. Local Government Reporter Alan Cooper extracts some of the key themes.

THE DA promises to provide councillors who are accountable, hard-working public representatives with high levels of personal integrity. It also vows to stamp out corruption in local government by tightening up control systems, increasing security and vigorously pursu-

ing corrupt officials and councillors.

DA municipalities would ensure comprehensive local safety and security planning and co-ordination to provide an integrated, around-the-clock service.

There would be visible local policing, targeting crime hot spots, including the introduction of, for example, municipal police services, community patrol officers and municipal courts.

The party also promises increased co-operation with the business community and

accredited local security companies and a 'maximised role for Community Police Forums and neighbourhood watch systems.

Other crime priorities are the freeing-up of the police through the out-sourcing of non-core police functions, vigorous enforcement of all laws, regulations and by-laws, greater rural safety and safe, well-lit public transport.

The DA promises that its municipalities would provide free anti-retroviral drugs at municipal health-care facilities to HIV-positive pregnant women and to rape victims exposed to

HIV/Aids.

In pursuit of local growth and local jobs for all, the DA would establish one-stop municipal offices at which investors can get all the information about investment opportunities and licensing, land use and planning approval under one roof.

DA-run councils would identify the type of development most suited to their areas and then plan and market themselves aggressively to attract such development and the associated investment and job-creating opportunities.

It would create local enter-

prise zones offering rates holidays and subsidised infrastructure development aimed at targeted investment.

The DA would set up Internet websites marketing tourism and investment opportunities and offering critical information that makes investment easier and promote local economic participation by creating one-stop tender advice facilities and local enterprise development centres.

DA municipalities would undertake an annual audit of the state of the environment and integrate that with its

planning. To foster "caring" municipalities, the party promises focused poverty alleviation, benefiting those in greatest need, without discouraging self-help or absolving individuals of the responsibility to care for themselves and dependents.

Its councillors would also push for the delivery of guaranteed basic services for all and the compassionate enforcement of by-laws dealing with street people, combining assistance and rehabilitation with appropriate measures that address undesirable actions and criminality.

DA metro municipalities would reverse the decline of inner cities by making it safe to live and work in inner cities and travel through them. Crime reduction would be a prerequisite for spending ratepayers' money on urban regeneration.

The metro municipalities would launch special council projects aimed at removing graffiti, refuse removal, street cleaning and safe, well-lit public transport routes.

They would clamp down on vandalism, anti-social behaviour, littering and public drinking in parks.



TONY LEON
DA leader



WE BEG YOUR PARDON: Archbishops Dennis Hurley (left) and Wilfred Napier at Kingsmead Stadium with thousands of worshippers, where they made a historic public request for pardon for the church's past failings

PICTURE: STEVEN NAIDOO

There appears to be general applause for the Catholic Church's public pardon move, writes Elijah Mhlanga.

THE universal public pardon sought by Roman Catholics, who gathered in their thousands for a special Jubilee 2000 mass at Kingsmead cricket stadium in Durban yesterday, has been widely accepted by the communities to whom this was directed.

Political parties and religious organisations applauded the "bold step" taken by the Catholics publicly to admit their mistakes.

IFP national spokesman Reverend Musa Zondi said what the church had done deserved "very high praise", because the situation in the church was still embarrassing.

He said the church had not begun to address within itself the issues such as racism, which was rife.

"I just wish that all other churches could follow and do this because they still have problems. Some are dogged by division between blacks and whites.

The situation is very lamentable," Zondi said.

He said African people were "forgiving people", even though they had been stripped of their dignity.

Durban Jewish leader Rabbi Isaac Richards said that in the Rivonia trial - in which Mr Nelson Mandela and others were tried for political crimes - there were Jewish people involved.

Oppression

He said: "It is fine for the church to seek pardon because they were not outspoken when the oppression happened."

And ANC spokesman Mr Mtholephi Mthimkhulu said that the Roman Catholic Church's plea for pardon was appropriate and "we applaud it".

"This is going to take us a long way in the process of reconciliation, especially in this province where it is more important because of the political violence. This bold step to publicly seek pardon is applaudable and it challenges other churches to do the same."

He said they were doing this at the time termed the Dawn of the African century, in line with the

African Renaissance.

Led by Archbishop of Durban Wilfred Napier, Roman Catholic Church members publicly and loudly sought pardon for the first time from African societies for the part played by the church in the disruption and even destruction of their cultures, apartheid victims, women, Aids sufferers and their families, the

Jewish people, and other Christian churches.

The Catholics also sought pardon for all the failings of the church and its members going back 2000 years, and for the harm and pain this had caused in the communities.

"Repentance for past wrongs is certainly good, but they should include a firm intention

not to repeat anything similar in future which will oppress people politically or militarily. And if they are courageous enough to compensate what they took away from the people, they should give it back," said Moulana Abdoor Roaf Soofie, of the Westville Mosque.

Soofie said it was not enough to express in words a desire for

pardon if they were still in possession of other people's property. But he said the gesture was significant because "repentance is never late".

Wheelchair-bound Mrs Rose Mthembu, from KwaMashu, who joined the church in 1947, said she was touched by the move taken by the congregation because it had noticed its mis-

takes. "I hope that from today people will find the church a place of peace and freedom of the soul," she said.

Mr Clem Darne said: "Everybody has something to apologise for because at some stage we have all done wrong."

But he supported the church's decision taken to seek public pardon.

Approval for public pardon

'REPENTANCE NEVER LATE'

A TRADITIONAL LEADER...

HIS PEOPLE...



GOVERNING ALLIANCE: REDEFINING ITS IDENTITY

ANC endeavouring to take its partners with it

DAILY NEWS WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 2000



A persistent impression exists that the African National Congress Government has succumbed to business interests at the expense of the ordinary worker, writes Dirk Kotze.

THE Government's Growth Employment and Redistribution (Gear) policy is seen as the battleground where organised labour in the form of Cosatu is wrestling from its influential status in the governing alliance.

Evidence of this theory is presented in the form of a document by the ANC's executive with a strong message to discredit leaders of Cosatu and the South African Communist Party (SACP).

It follows shortly on Cosatu's congress and its uncompromising stand on GEAR and HIV/Aids. It does not require any political insight to predict it will again fuel speculation about the tripartite alliance. Current events follow on an ANC report presented to the national executive council (NEC) in November last year entitled "The role of the progressive trade unions".

The report was not accepted as a mandate, but its vitriolic attack on Cosatu, specifically the public sector unions, provided a clear indication of the mood of the ANC top leadership. The report also criticised the SACP for not providing political leadership to the unions.

It is certainly valid to ask why in less than a decade Cosatu has been shifted from the political centre to a thorn in the flesh of the ruling establishment. Before the 1994 general election Cosatu took the initiative in the process of developing the RDP. Today it is its main opponent in this respect.

An explanation is certainly available in the context of the power relations within the alliance. As a politician and strategic manager, President Thabo Mbeki is particu-

larly concerned with political control.

Since last year he has presumably lost most of his remaining presence in Cosatu when Mr Mbhazima Shilowa became the Gauteng premier. It is widely believed he is a close associate of Mbeki and that as Cosatu secretary-general he was not entirely opposed to Gear.

HIS SUCCESSOR, Mr Zwelinzima Vavi, on the other hand, is truly a socialist and not remotely close to the Mbeki sphere of influence.

The election of the new Cosatu leadership last year also hampered Mbeki's foothold in the federation.

It is well known that during the acrimonious public sector bargaining last year Nehawu appeared to have had access to the president's office and to be amenable to compromises, while Mr Willy Madisha's South African Democratic Teachers' Union took a hard-line approach. Madisha's victory over his Nehawu opponent for Cosatu's presidency certainly was not wel-

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comed in the Union Buildings. The combination of Vavi and Madisha is therefore a predictable recipe for conflict with the presidency.

Dr Blade Nzimande is the other targetted person in the NEC circular. While many believe the SACP is a major influence in the ANC, the past few years witnessed a different tendency. Such is the influence of the ANC over the party that its autonomy can be questioned. (In 1985 the party acknowledged a similar predicament, but for other

reasons.)

As secretary general Nzimande succeeded in avoiding this emasculation and therefore his "otherness" has set himself up as a target.

Gear as a policy is implemented mainly by SACP leaders like Mrs Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, the party's deputy chairwoman, Mr Sydney Mufamadi, Mr Alec Erwin and Mr Jeff Radebe. Only Mr Trevor Manuel as a Gear-nocrat is not in that predicament. Moreover, the national chairman, Mr Charles Nqakula, and the party's assistant general secretary, Mr Jeremy Cronin, are both members of Parliament. Cronin, in particular, as a Gear critic, is essentially compromised. Also Dr Essop Pahad, a politburo member, is Mbeki's Advisory Minister. The party is therefore effectively ensconced in an ANC tangle. Only Nzimande has not yet been captured.

The moral of the story is not that the alliance is on the verge of an implosion, but that it is engulfed in an internal power struggle and an

effort to redefine its identity. The fact that young ANC activists are called upon by the NEC circular to join Cosatu unions and spread the "correct" message is an indication that the presidency does not want to undermine Cosatu.

For the ANC to maintain its liberation symbolism, it needs to take Cosatu and the SACP along with it. As the ANC is moving away from its traditional social democratic nature, Cosatu is expected to follow suit.

It requires an ideological move in tandem to "the third way". Hence the issue is about the Cosatu leadership and not about Cosatu as a federation. The same applies to the SACP.

ONE CAN ask if it is a precursor of the Thatcher approach in Britain when she engaged the striking coal miners and Mr Arthur Scargill in a bitter struggle. Is it, in other words, about Gear or is it about political power and control?

In Britain the anti-union stance was a key element of the Thatcherite macro-economic policy, and the same appears to be true for Gear.

It might be an irony of immense proportions that a government policy meant to be the basis of its development philosophy is also the main rationale for weakening one of the agents in society most concerned about development - as opposed to only growth.

Can a country afford to have unionism without a sense of workers' security and social welfare considerations?

□ Dr Dirk Kotze is a lecturer in political science at Unisa.

Six cops to appear in court after horror footage of German shepherds attacking three illegal immigrants

Savage acts put SAPS to shame

PRETORIA NEWS

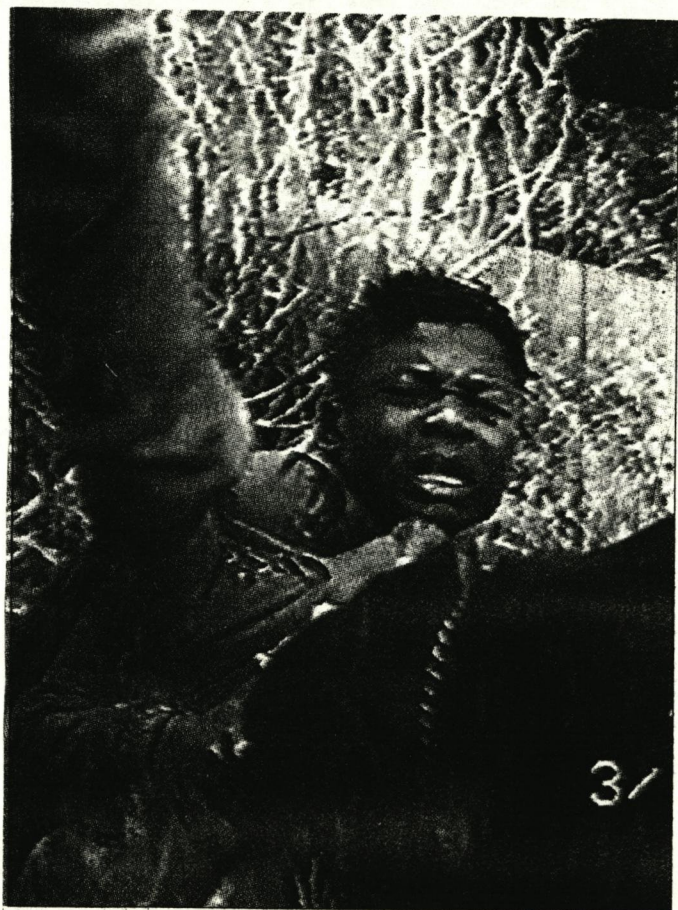
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Six cops to appear in court after horror footage of German shepherds attacking three illegal immigrants

Savage acts put SAPS to shame

PRETORIA NEWS
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 2000



Top and above: a North East Rand Police Dog Unit handler unleashes a German shepherd on an illegal immigrant. As another dog savages the man's arm the policeman joins in with his boot.

Men were used as live bait

PRETORIA NEWS

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 2000

Janet Smith
OWN CORRESPONDENT

Viewers of SABC3's award-winning current affairs show, *Special Assignment*, last night witnessed acts of extreme racial brutality as white South African police officers used black men as live bait for their trained German shepherds.

Shot on mine dumps near Springs, the footage of the savagery is reminiscent of the notorious BBC film showing South African police officers brutalising suspected hijackers.

Supplied to *Special Assignment*, the footage captured six members of the North East Rand Dog Unit urging their dogs on and actively participating in the assault as the animals mauled three men offloaded from an unmarked minibus.

The uncensored footage showed the police officers – named by *Special Assignment* as Inspectors Christo Koch and Eugene Truter and Sergeants Kobus Smith, Dino Guitto, Robert Henzen and Nicolaas Laubser – relentlessly encouraging the dogs to be as violent as

possible with the men, who are suspected to be illegal immigrants and who are not named.

The victims pleaded for their lives with the police officers who hurled continuous racial abuse and punched, kicked and slapped the men, also stamping on their necks and faces, as the animals tore viciously into their flesh. In one section of footage, it appeared that a piece of a dog's tooth had come loose and was embedded in the flesh of one of the victims.

The German Shepherds, which were joined by another large dog which appeared to be a cross-breed, attacked the men with such ferocity and strength that they were able to lift one of the men up in their jaws from his crouched position in the veld. The dogs were also able to drag the men by locking into their flesh.

When the dogs were finally called off, the police officers lined up the three severely injured men and assaulted them further, with one of the officers asking one of the men: "Is jy 'n kaffer? Sê jy is 'n kaffer!" The man was then hit across the side of his head, and asked if

he had heard of WWF (as in the American World Wrestling Federation). The man was then knocked to the ground with a punch before a police officer stamped on his face. The other officers are heard to be laughing in the background.

Before the men were loaded back into the minibus, with the same dogs which had attacked them, one of the police officers threw stones at them, and another removed his weapon from his holster, but did not fire.

The two ringleaders in the assault are identified by *Special Assignment* as a Sgt Smith and Insp Koch.

The producers say Insp Koch has since been promoted and now heads one of the dog squads at the Unit. The footage, which was taken in January 1998, was supplied to *Special Assignment* about 10 days ago, presumably by another police officer, or an associate who filmed it with the clear knowledge of the members of the Dog Unit seen on the film.

The police officers referred to the camera, even describing their actions as part of a "training video".

Savage acts put SAPS to shame

Six cops to appear in court after horror footage of German shepherds attacking three illegal immigrants

Julian Rademeyer
STAFF REPORTER

Six policemen from the North East Rand Dog Unit have been suspended and are expected to appear in court today or tomorrow on charges of attempted murder and assault stemming from a ghastly "training video" showing them torturing three illegal immigrants.

The footage, apparently filmed in early 1998 at a mine dump on the East Rand, was leaked last week to the SABC's award-winning investigative programme, *Special Assignment*, and was screened on television last night. It was billed as the "most blatant instance of police brutality and racism yet caught on film".

The police dog handlers, who are white, can be heard yelling racial epithets as they repeatedly goad their German shepherds to maul the black men. They are also shown kicking, punching and slapping the men whose strangled screams of terror can be clearly heard above the snarls of the dogs.

An off-camera voice introduces the film as a "dog training video". It is believed the "session" was to train two inexperienced dogs. In one snippet a policeman can be heard yelling at a badly injured man: "Is jy 'n kaffer? Sê jy is 'n kaffer!"

The footage also captures a policeman with his sidearm drawn and pointed at the men and another hurling stones at them after they had been savaged by the dogs.

Reacting to the arrests of Inspectors Christo Koch and Eugene Truter and Sergeants Kobus Smith, Dino Guitto, Robert Henzen and Nicolaas Laubser, Minister of Safety and Security Steve Tshwete last night expressed outrage.

"Although the incident took place in 1998, I find it difficult to believe that such a naked display of racism and bru-

tality could occur four years into our democracy."

He said it "might even dent our (country's) international image".

He said it made members of the Johannesburg Flying Squad who were filmed by a BBC journalist assaulting suspected hijackers look like "kindergarten cops".

The fate of the three men is not known. According to *Special Assignment*, one of them may be dead.

The six policemen, aged between 28 and 32, are being held separately at police stations in Gauteng.

Mr Tshwete, National Police Commissioner Jackie Selebi, members of the Scorpions and senior police officials were briefed yesterday morning and shown the video.

Commenting last night, Cmr Selebi said he found it difficult to express his "shock, revulsion and disappointment".

"Although the footage was filmed in 1998, the fact that the police officials concerned are still serving in the South African Police Service, and possibly continuing their barbaric acts, is a cause for deep concern."

He condemned the policemen's "aberrant behaviour" and said he had ordered an internal investigation to "ensure other similar incidents are not taking place at other dog units throughout the country".

"Although I cannot judge the members involved in this case... I want to tell all members of the SAPS who are abusing their power as police officials: pack up your uniforms and hand in your badges."

"You will be flushed out and imprisoned should you make yourselves guilty of criminal behaviour and gross brutality and racism."

A police task force headed by Director Sharon Schutte has been appointed to investigate the matter.



A policeman slaps an illegal immigrant while screaming racial epithets.



Punches also flew during the course of the "training video".

Law doesn't permit staggered poll in KZN

Mufamadi 'no' to election delay

Sapa

Cape Town – Local Government Minister Sydney Mufamadi yesterday ruled out any postponement in the local government elections.

It was reported yesterday that the matter was so serious that a postponement of the elections in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape — where traditional leaders are the strongest — was being considered.

However, Mr Mufamadi said legislation governing the holding of elections did not allow for a scattered municipal poll. "Elections have to take place on the same day. There's no prospect of them being postponed," he said.

Mr Mufamadi said traditional leaders' concerns about their role in the new municipal dispensation was being resolved, hence the latest proposed amendments to the Municipal Structures Act.

"The provisions that we are piloting through the national legislature will be in place as soon as the elections are over and will operate soon

thereafter and be improved upon.

"There is no need for anyone to suggest we have problems that cannot be solved," he said.

Eastern Cape provincial electoral officer, Reverend Bongani Finca, also said there was no talk of a postponement. "We are working all out for the election date as set out not by us, but by the minister."

His view was echoed by the president of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa Patekile Holomisa.

Mr Holomisa said it would be "very immature" to suggest postponements when legislation existed to address problems relating to traditional leaders and their future role in newly demarcated municipal areas.

"Even if there would be such a postponement, why would it be in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal only, when we have traditional leaders around the country?"

Mr Holomisa confirmed the amakhosi (chiefs) were still unhappy about the "failure" of draft legislation to deal adequately with their powers and functions.

The Municipal Structures Second Amendment Bill, which aims to address some of their concerns, was gazetted on Friday, but has been rejected by the amakhosi.

The National House of Traditional Leaders has requested a new round of negotiations with President Mbeki.

House chairman Mpiyeziintombi Mzimela said traditional leaders had rejected the proposed amendments. Amakhosi met in Pretoria on Monday night and unanimously agreed to reject draft amendments to the Act.

In terms of the draft amendments, municipalities can delegate tasks to traditional leaders and identify issues which municipalities may request them to do on their behalf.

"In many ways the document was demeaning of traditional leaders and we had no option but to reject it," Mr Mzimela said.

While traditional leaders had not expressly stated that they would boycott the elections, it might be difficult to motivate rural people to vote, he added.

MEC confirms expensive mansion lease

THE KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Housing, Dumisani Makhaye, yesterday confirmed a lease agreement on a house which will cost taxpayers a total of R652 536, but said the "provision of the house is not the task of [his] department but the Department of Public Works".

The confirmation follows reports that Makhaye is living in a mansion in Umhlanga at taxpayers' expense.

"There is a cabinet resolution that the provisioning of housing for Dumisani Makhaye and MEC for Economic Affairs and Tourism Michael Mabuyakhulu should be facilitated because of the security situation in areas they stay," his office stated.

The statement further indicates that inspectors from the Department of Public Works inspected three houses on offer and they recommended the house that he currently occupies. His house cost R652 536 while the other two were R730 000 and R1,09 million respectively.

Makhaye also noted that he approached the Department of Public Works to buy any other house rather than rent this one but the response was that it would take too long to draw tender documents. The department has a two-year contract with the owner and the lease agreement can only be reviewed after one year.

Phiwewe Duma, the director of administration at Public Works, confirmed the lease agreement and said: "I understand that the price is exorbitant but according to the agreement we can review the lease after three months. This was just to ensure that the minister has accommodation."

Duma said another problem is the "growing trend to inflate prices by the tenderers ... We are now trying to address that problem and will request ministers to lower their specifications because ... prices are based on specifications given by individuals".

— Witness Reporter.

Depiction of Singh as Pinocchio was unfair

AS senior management of the campaign against foot and mouth disease, we write to express our dismay at the portrayal by Yves Vanderhaegen (*Witness*, November 4) of the role of the KwaZulu-Natal Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, Mr Narend Singh. (The depiction of him as Pinocchio is uncalled for and unfair.)

Mr Vanderhaegen is misinformed when he accuses the minister of political interference in the campaign. Mr Singh has offered unstinting support to our effort, fiscal as well as moral, and the one thing he has not done is interfere. He has never once attempted to influence the veterinary operation. He has left it to the professionals.

As for the claim that the minister denied a plan to "cull all cloven-hoofed livestock within a five-kilometre radius of the affected farms" — then announced the slaughter of 3 500 animals the very next day — the facts are as follows:

The Foot and Mouth Disease Control Centre operated from the start on the basis of a 10-km radius quarantine zone. A 5-km zone was never considered. A cull in the 10-km zone would have meant destroying about 21 000 animals. However, an alternative option was being explored — to cull within a much smaller area, of between three and four kilometres in radius, defined by natural and other boundaries such as roads and sugar cane fields.

When aerial photographs became available and suggested that the alternative option might indeed be practical, a decision was made. With foot and mouth disease, decisions have to be quick, sometimes overnight. As a result, 3 500 animals were culled instead of 21 000. That is surely of some significance. The decision was an operational one, taken by management of the veterinary team. The minister played no part in it.

We seek nothing more than to contain and eradicate a disease that, if left unchecked, could wreak havoc on the South African meat industry and the economy generally. The O-type virus is a new one and particularly virulent. Several world authorities are of the opinion that we have done rather well to contain it to the extent that we have.

More than 1 000 men and women are working long, exhausting hours, often in atrocious weather conditions, to fight off this potential scourge. We would welcome support from your newspaper. However, our main concern is to correct the totally unfair accusations levelled at the provincial minister of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, a man for whom personnel at the FMD Control Centre have nothing but respect.

GEORGE EDLMANN (Eston Farmers' Association);
BARRY GIBBS (KwaZulu-Natal Pork Producers' Organisation); **DR ROGER HORNER** (Deputy Director, Veterinary Services, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs); **DR FRED KARS** (Chief Director, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs); **DAN KNOESSEN** (KwaZulu-Natal Road Traffic Inspectorate); **DR M. E. MOGAJANE** (Chief Director, Agricultural Production, Department of Agriculture); **LT-COL FRANCOIS SCHREUDER** (SANDF, Chairman, Joint Operations Committee); **STEVE SHONE** (Director, KwaZulu-Natal Agricultural Union); **DR MARK WARREN** (Deputy Director, Veterinary Services, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs); **DR BRIAN WEAVER** (Director, Veterinary Services, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs)

Management Members
Foot and Mouth Disease Control
Allerton
Pietermaritzburg

Yves Vanderhaegen responds:

Nowhere was Mr Singh specifically accused of interfering. The reference to him related to his dissembling public statements, which, in the context, were intended to suggest that no culling would take place and that the *Witness* report was wrong to state otherwise. Mr Singh's comments were dismaying because he has always had an excellent relationship with the press. That the signatories have jumped to Mr Singh's defence ignores the thrust of the article, which was that undue emphasis on political considerations was undermining efforts to contain the spread of the disease. Mr Singh has himself alluded to differences of opinion. The *Witness* has thrown its support behind the control team from the outset and indicated to Dr Weaver that editorial space would be readily made available to disseminate information that would assist him and inform the public about the disease. That offer still stands.

Despite the amakhosi unanimously rejecting the Municipal Structures Amendment Bill.

Govt rules out election postponement

LOCAL Government Minister Sydney Mufamadi yesterday ruled out any postponement in the local government elections following the latest stand-off between the government and traditional leaders.

The *Mercury* newspaper, quoting unnamed sources, reported yesterday the matter is so serious that a postponement of the elections in Kwazulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape — where traditional leaders hold the strongest sway — was being considered.

However, Mufamadi told Sapa legislation governing the holding of elections does not allow for a

scattered municipal poll.

"Elections have to take place on the same day. There's no prospect of them being postponed," he said.

Mufamadi said traditional leaders' concerns about their role in the new municipal dispensation are being resolved, hence the latest proposed amendments to the Municipal Structures Act.

"The provisions that we are piloting through the national legislature will be in place as soon as the elections are over and will operate soon thereafter and be improved upon.

"There is no need for anyone

to suggest we have problems that cannot be solved," he said.

Eastern Cape provincial electoral officer Reverend Bongani Finca also told Sapa yesterday there is no talk of a postponement. "We are working all out for the election date as set out not by us, but by the minister."

His view was echoed by the president of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, Patekile Holomisa.

Holomisa said it would be "very immature" to suggest postponements when legislation exists to address problems relating to traditional leaders and

their future role in newly demarcated municipal areas.

Holomisa confirmed that the *amakhosi* are still unhappy about the "failure" of draft legislation to deal adequately with their powers and functions.

The Municipal Structures Second Amendment Bill, which aims to address their concerns, was gazetted on Friday, but has been rejected by the *amakhosi*.

The National House of Traditional Leaders has requested a new round of negotiations with President Thabo Mbeki.

House chairman Mpiyezin-tombi Mzimela yesterday said

traditional leaders have unanimously rejected the proposed amendments. "In many ways the document was demeaning of traditional leaders and we had no option but to reject it."

"It is a poorly drafted document and it gives us what we already have," he added.

"We had hoped that we were going to find a solution to the problem, but President Mbeki referred the matter to the Ministry of Provincial and Local Government and now we are less optimistic."

When asked to comment about the upcoming municipal elec-

tions, Mzimela said: "We cannot talk about free and fair elections if a majority of rural communities are not sure of what would happen to *amakhosi*."

"They might even decide not to vote at all."

However, he quickly added that he is not suggesting that there will be any bloodshed.

People who would like to make submissions regarding the Municipal Structures Second Amendment Bill should contact committee secretary Llewellyn Brown at (021) 403 3764 by November 14.

— Sapa-Witness Reporter.

THE NATAL WITNESS

WED. NOV. 8

2000



THE NATAL WITNESS
WED. NOV. 8

2000

SA defence industry reflects globalisation

What is now SA's more than R45bn strategic arms package and the related integration of the local industry with larger international firms could be taken as an illustration of the globalisation of defence conglomerates.

Indeed, the apparently profitable countertrade aspects which have controversially accompanied the SA deal are both a reflection of the increasing commercialisation of the global arms trade in which such offsets are an accepted — if disputed — norm, and of the increasing competitiveness between rival firms in this process.

Topically, the transformation in global defence markets and industries was also the subject of a conference co-hosted in November in London by the International Institute for Strategic Studies and a public wing of the US Central Intelligence Agency, the National Intelligence Council.

The globalisation of defence industries has occurred in tandem with several discernible events, notably the synergy of technological innovation and rapid communications which has ushered in a so-called revolution in military affairs, along with the "denationalisation" or "multinationalisation" of

Changing sector is in step with world trend of growing commercialisation, writes Greg Mills

industry in general. Through digitisation and the information revolution, the military revolution has led to greater weapon lethality, intelligence collection and processing, and ability to project force.

These events have also been accompanied by alterations to the Cold War security environment, previously a fundamental obstacle to global co-operation on the scale practised today.

Yet, paradoxically, the end of bipolar tensions has had mixed benefits for the defence sector, leading to a reduction in the value of the global arms trade from \$92bn in 1987 to \$53bn last year — of which the US accounts for nearly 50% and the UK almost 20%.

In the defence field globalisation has manifested itself in a number of ways:

- First, in transnational mergers and joint ventures. Europe today, for example, has two "super-industries", British Aerospace and the European Aeronautic, Defence and Space consortium. The US pattern was similar, with various takeovers by the big three, Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Raytheon;
- Second, in terms of the creation

of larger markets and improved market access;

- Third, with the need for increased interstate military interoperability, as the Kosovo situation necessitated in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation;
- Fourth, by more global competition in procurements, and;
- Fifth, in greater civilian-military technical convergence.

Of course technological innovation is not new. In particular, the defence sector has long been at the cutting edge of research and development. Yet the process of diffusion of these technologies and the ability of states to control this process is today fundamentally altered by the pace and scope of globalisation and by the decreasing gap between civilian- and defence-based technologies.

Thus two questions stand out in this process of diffusion of technologies and increasing commercialisation of the defence industry.

First, as was seen in the Gulf and over Kosovo, western powers currently enjoy a technological military advantage.

However, will greater use of commercial, off-the-shelf technolo-

gies allow states to make up this asymmetrical technical deficit?

Will the extent of technological diffusion permit the rapid spread of military capabilities to third parties, perhaps even from those on the periphery of cutting-edge technologies and access to markets to those who may be potential threats to western interests and values?

These questions are obviously of great concern to the US, for example, as it currently considers permitting a relaxation of export controls to like-minded European partners, notably the UK.

Indeed, that the London conference was co-hosted by the council and institute was in itself a reflection of globalisation and the changes in international defence dynamics, but also of the concern as to where this process and greater European-US collaboration might ultimately lead.

Second, defence is not, contrary to popular opinion, necessarily a profitable business to be in, especially for the major system providers or so-called prime contractors. An estimated 70% of the value accrued today is for subsystem providers or subcontractors.

Also, it is very hard for defence contractors to attract the best and the brightest to the industry — the salaries are low and work conditions are, frankly, much less exciting than the world of dotcomery.

What will the future look like? The trends are, put simply, contradictory: on the one hand, there is likely to be less self-reliance and greater multinational interdependence, interoperability and the routine transfer of technology.

On the other, there is likely to be an increased stress on the need for regulation and controls to ensure that these technologies do not end up in the wrong hands.

Added to this, the process of globalisation is not — as with the contemporary dispersion of wealth generally — an even or uniform phenomenon between states. There are just two nonwestern — not European or US — defence manufacturers in the global top 20, namely, Russian and Japanese, and only nine in the top 50.

Indeed, one has to question the relevance of this topic for Africa, a continent which accounted for two-thirds of the 100 000 conflict-related deaths in 1999-2000, but

where the majority were killed with low-tech weaponry.

Indeed, last year, the world spent \$800bn on defence, while sub-Saharan Africa's 48 states accounted for just \$10bn.

Yet SA stands at the centre of many of these developments with the reorganisation of its industry by privatisation and the counter-trade or offset arrangements which accompanied the arms packages.

Yet what will happen to the SA industry in the light of globalisation? There are few reassuring answers from similar middle powers.

The restructuring of the SA defence industry towards international participation as a smaller subsystem provider to a global market offers a pointer to the likely path for middle powers.

Equally, however, lack of transparency in the countertrade and overall defence decision-making process in SA is probably likely only to raise additional concern in the US in particular as to the desirability of the free flow of defence and related technologies.

□ Mills is national director of the SA Institute of International Affairs. He presented a paper on the practice of countertrade at the London conference on global defence markets.

BUSINESS DAY
WED, NOV. 8
2000

**Fatally
flawed**

PRESIDENT Thabo Mbeki emerged from a high-level economic policy discussion last Sunday saying the development of information technology was one of the key challenges facing SA. Ironically, Mbeki spoke a mere 48 hours after the Independent Communications Authority of SA (Icasa) resolved to deny cellphone operators Vodacom and MTN access to the GSM 1800 spectrum. This is clearly an obstacle to technological progress. But Icasa justifies its decision on the grounds that this is the only regulatory tool at its disposal to ensure that when a third operator enters the market it will have a reasonable prospect of competing against the two established giants.

Icasa says it is limited to this tool, and is unable to apply others — like mandatory roaming rights for new entrants and enhanced public service obligation for the big two — because of uncertainties in the rules governing the industry.

This, Icasa says, is so even though MTN, Vodacom and the Saudi-backed Cell C — which was awarded the third licence but is embroiled in litigation over the legality of the award — would all be happy with such conditions attached to the use of the 1800 spectrum. Icasa apparently believes further time-wasting litigation would inevitably have followed.

The unexpected outcome has given rise to rumours, angrily denied, of state interference in Icasa's deliberations. These rumours come on top of previous ones that the disputed award of the third licence to Cell C by Icasa's predecessor Satra was a quid pro quo for a large, hoped-for Saudi arms purchase from SA. Cell C's bid was found by an independent study to have been inferior to those of at least two competitors.

That is the worst case scenario — the progress of SA's cellular phone industry being sacrificed to a secret arms deal or some other political agenda. And, as President Thabo Mbeki is doubtless aware, it has damaged SA's reputation as a destination for investment. Who would want to plan a major investment not knowing what secret agendas may block it, or at best delay interminably its implementation.

The most generous interpretation of the whole saga — the one implicitly offered by Icasa — is that the industry is being hobbled by an inferior, probably fatally flawed, legal and policy environment. The flaws begin with the "beauty contest" method of issuing licences when the rest of the world holds potentially lucrative auctions, and continue from there.

SA needs a telecommunications minister and department capable of sorting out the mess, and fast. If the current incumbents cannot do it, it is time for the president to find others who can.

**Coalition or
collusion?**

THE many financial irregularities aired in the KwaZulu-Natal legislature in recent weeks have exposed the rot in the government of provincial unity.

The alliance between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party effectively controls 68 of the 80 seats in the legislature. The result has been a subversion of the democratic process, with matters settled behind closed doors and the legislature presented with *faits accomplis* with a minimum of debate.

Mutual back-scratching started with an ANC decision not to contest the premiership, and the handing of the casino licensing process to the IFP. Party differences are now routinely swept under the carpet. The absence of accountability is nowhere clearer than in the ANC's silence on the extravagant aviation account of premier Lionel Mtshali, and the IFP's silence on the rental bill of ANC housing MEC Dumisani Makhaye, which the state pays.

The fact that Mtshali has taken on added competencies like aviation, gambling and the Zulu royal house, without a murmur from the ANC, is a further telling sign. The absurdity of two legislative capitals in the province, in addition to Durban, was once an issue between the parties because of the wasteful duplication and travel costs it entailed. Now all is harmonious on this front. The ANC and IFP ostensibly came together for the sake of peace in the province. Increasingly their alliance looks like a partnership in self-enrichment and misgovernment.

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'No chance' of local election postponement

By SAPA AND SIPHO KHUMALO

LOCAL Government Minister Sydney Mufamadi has ruled out any postponement of the local government elections after the latest stand-off between traditional leaders and the Government.

Some media reports suggested yesterday that the matter was so serious that a postponement of the elections in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape – where traditional leaders are the strongest – was being considered.

Mufamadi said legislation governing the holding of

elections did not allow for a scattered municipal poll.

"Elections have to take place on the same day. There's no prospect of them being postponed," he said.

Mufamadi said traditional leaders' concerns about their role in the new municipal dispensation was being resolved.

"The provisions we are piloting through the national legislature will be in place as soon as the elections are over and will operate soon thereafter and be improved upon.

"There is no need for anyone to suggest we have problems that cannot be solved."

Eastern Cape provincial electoral officer, Reverend Bongani Finca, also said there was no talk of a postponement.

His view was echoed by the president of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, Inkosi Patekile Holomisa.

Holomisa said it would be "very immature" to suggest postponements when legislation existed to address problems relating to traditional leaders and their future role in municipal areas.

"Even if there would be such a postponement, why

would it be in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal only, when we have traditional leaders around the country?"

He confirmed that *amakhosi* were still unhappy about the "failure" of draft legislation to deal adequately with their powers and functions.

The Municipal Structures Second Amendment Bill, which aims to address some of their concerns, was gazetted on Friday, but has been rejected by *amakhosi*.

The National House of Traditional Leaders has asked for a new round of negotiations with President Thabo Mbeki.

House chairman Inkosi Mpiyezintombi Mzimela said traditional leaders had met in Pretoria on Monday night and unanimously agreed to reject draft amendments to the Bill.

In terms of the draft amendments, municipalities can delegate tasks to traditional leaders and identify issues which municipalities may ask them to do on their behalf.

Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) president and the chairman of the House of Traditional Leaders in KwaZulu-Natal, Inkosi Mangosuthu Buthelezi, said no decision had been taken by traditional

leaders to have the elections postponed.

Talking at the launch of the second phase of the IFP's election campaign in Durban, Buthelezi said that traditional leaders and the Government were still discussing their differences.

King Goodwill Zwelithini yesterday called on people of KwaZulu-Natal to "maintain their cool".

"Nothing will be gained through resorting to violent means of protesting any action, law, omission or provocation from any quarters," the king said.

Outrage over cop dog-bite video

There has been widespread reaction to the attack by police dogs on illegal immigrants. Sapa reports from Pretoria.

SIX policemen from the North East Rand Dog Unit were arrested yesterday before the broadcast of video footage depicting police brutality and racism, national Commissioner Jackie Selebi said.

The policemen would face charges of attempted murder and steps were being taken to suspend them, he said.

The footage was shown on

SABC television news and in the programme *Special Assignment* last night.

The policemen are: Inspector Chris de Koch and Sergeant Kobus Smith – the two alleged ring leaders in the attack – Sergeant Nicolaas Loubser, Sergeant Deno Guiotto, Inspector Eugene Truter and Sergeant Robert Henzen.

The video was shown to Selebi and Safety and Security Minister Steve Tshwete in advance, and they expressed their disgust.

"I am horrified and outraged after viewing the scenes of blatant brutality and racism," Tshwete said.

"I have become aware of the fact that pockets of racism do indeed exist, but I am shocked to know that some policemen can act like this."

Selebi said that he found it difficult to put into words the shock, revulsion and disappointment he felt after viewing the video.

"Although it was filmed in 1998, the fact the policemen concerned are still serving in the force, and possibly continuing with their barbaric acts, is cause for deep concern."

The video showed police dogs attacking three alleged illegal immigrants, ostensibly in a "training exercise", to teach

young dogs to be aggressive. At times up to four dogs attacked the men, who were led out into the veld one at a time while the others were kept in a minibus.

The dogs were on leashes and were repeatedly set on the victims as the policemen worked them into a frenzy with shouted commands. Several times the victims tried to defend themselves against the animals, but were beaten with fists by the policemen as they begged for the attack to be stopped.

The men, bleeding from numerous bite and scratch wounds, and their clothes in tatters, were then made to stand in a line as some of the policemen

punched them.

The policemen referred to their victims as "bastards" and "kaffirs", and called the dogs "kaffir-biters".

Immediately after viewing the video, Selebi and Tshwete ordered that the policemen involved should be arrested immediately, Selebi said.

Tshwete said: "We are doing our utmost to rid the police force of these backward elements.

"I have made it abundantly clear there is no place for racism and brutality."

The overwhelming majority of policemen were honest and dedicated, willing to lay down

their lives for the Constitution and to provide safety and security to our people.

"These rogues are exceptions," the minister said.

Selebi advised the policemen: "Pack up your uniforms and hand in your badges. You are not wanted.

"You will be flushed out and imprisoned should you be found guilty of criminal behaviour and gross brutality and racism that were witnessed in the video footage."

It is not clear when the policemen will appear in court, but according to law they have to appear within 48 hours.

The Democratic Alliance

(DA) praised Selebi for acting swiftly in arresting the culprits.

DA leader Mr Tony Leon said the scenes belonged to the "heyday of apartheid and have no place in the present South Africa".

"Ordinary South Africans of all races need to be reassured the police are allies of the law-abiding and enemies of criminals - not the other way around," he said.

The Freedom Front (FF) expressed shock and revulsion. "The Afrikaner's future will not be built on racism or through the bullying of other people," FF chairman Mr Pieter Mulder said.



Bill is 'an insult'

By BRIAN STUART

CAPE TOWN. - The local government elections will go ahead on December 5 in spite of the attitude of traditional leaders that the proposed amendments to the Municipal Structures Act are "an insult".

Provincial and Local Government Minister Sydney Mufamadi said after yesterday's cabinet meeting that the Bill would give the newly elected councils a "sovereign right" to delegate functions to traditional leaders.

These powers, such as witchcraft and firewood collecting, are regarded as insulting by traditional leaders. The published list includes:

- To attend to matters relating to witchcraft and divination;

Chiefs to come under councils

tion;

- To control the holding of initiation ceremonies;

- To facilitate the gathering of firewood; and

- To co-ordinate first fruit ceremonies.

The new Bill would not allocate powers to traditional leaders: "It will be the sovereign right of municipal councils to decide what powers to delegate."

A committee of ministers - himself, Justice, Constitutional Development and Safety and Security - had been set up to "improve on the draft" in the meantime.

It would be up to the traditional institutions to make their own submissions to Parliament's committees on the Bill.

Mufamadi stressed that this would be an interim measure, to ensure some role for traditional leaders after the December 5 elections, while working on a White Paper to give legal effect to permanent accommodation of traditional leaders.

The cabinet was unanimous in stating that "government does not have any intention to diminish or obliterate the powers of traditional leaders".

Chiefs' role for debate

Parliamentary Correspondent

CAPE TOWN. - Public hearings will be held at Parliament on November 16 on changes to the Municipal Structures Act to give traditional leaders a role in councils to be elected on December 5.

Yunus Carrim, chairman of the Provincial and Local Government Portfolio Committee, said yesterday people wanting to make submissions to Parliament on the issue should contact the committee secretary, Llewellyn Brown, by November 14, on Tel 021 403-3764m Fax 021 461-7969 or Cell 082 397 0898.

"Obviously there are many issues that can be raised about the relationship between traditional leadership and institutions and local government.

"The Municipal Structures Second Amendment Bill does not seek to address all these issues. Our understanding is that it addressed issues in the interim, while negotiations continue between the government and traditional leaders."

Carrim said a white paper would be drawn up on the relationship between traditional leadership and various institutions, and the public would be given an opportunity to take part.