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Venda lines up to rejoin S Africa

From PETER YOUNGHUSBAND in Cape Town

ANOTHER of South Africa's troubled black homeland States said yesterday it wanted reincorporation into the republic.

The administration of Venda, one of the four nominally independent States among South Africa's 10 black homelands, said that as a first step towards such a move bans should be lifted from the African National Congress (ANC), the Communist Party and other anti-apartheid organisations.

The President of Venda, Mr Ravele, said yesterday the issue was "high on the agenda" of a special sitting of the homeland Legislative Assembly, which meets later today.

The move follows widespread unrest and agitation in the homeland States over the past two weeks by anti-apartheid forces pushing for their reincorporation and therefore a bigger voice in South Africa's future.

The corrupt and repressive regime of former president for life Chief Lennox Sebe was overthrown in Ciskei and tens of thousands of Bophuthatswanan citizens have clashed with police in that homeland.

There has also been unrest in several other homelands.

More than 12 people died at the weekend in violence in the homelands and black South African townships despite a crackdown by police in which dozens of activists, rioters and looters were arrested and jailed. The death toll was expected to reach 25.

The newly appointed ANC deputy president, Mr Nelson Mandela, has cut short his visit to ailing ANC president Mr Oliver Tambo in Sweden — following his trip to Tanzania — to return to South Africa to try to end the violence.

Senior members of the ANC and its related United Democratic Front, such as Mr Walter Sisulu, have called repeatedly for the conflict to end, but they are being ignored by youths angry and increasingly frustrated at apartheid.

In an attempt to defuse tension among the 500,000 people of Venda — a 6677sq km piece of territory near the border with Zimbabwe — President Ravele said that in addition to unbanning outlawed organisations, all those being held merely for membership of such organisations would be freed.



Mr Mandela in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with his wife Winnie yesterday — Reuters picture