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Bophuthatswana frees 18 political prisoners

BOPHUTHATSWANA yesterday announced the release of 18 political prisoners — two days after political prisoner Rabusang Monnane died at Roodgrond prison.

Justice Minister Godfrey Motlbe said the releases were part of an "ongoing process" which began on September 12 when President Lucas Mangope announced the release of 18 prisoners being held for their part in the abortive 1988 coup attempt.

The Mafikeng Anti-Repression Forum (Maref) said in a statement yesterday there were still 128 political prisoners in the homeland's prisons. Twenty-four were on hunger strike.

Maref also released a statement — citing prisoners — detailing the circumstances leading to Monnane's death. The prisoners claimed Monnane had been ill for some time but that his illness had not been taken seriously by prison medical staff.

They claimed he was not examined, but was given tablets. They said when his condition deteriorated he was taken to a doctor who did not examine him thoroughly.

Tutu's adviser wants tighter sanctions

ANGLICAN bishops, attending a consultation to seek advice on whether to modify their pro-sanctions stance, have been urged by one of their key advisers to adopt a policy of tightening financial sanctions.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu's economics adviser Terry Crawford-Browne told the consultation at St George's Church in Johannesburg that sanctions should be tightened by "inducing New York banks to suspend all correspondent banking relationships and transfers to and from SA until an interim government is established".

During a previous meeting last month,

ANTHONY NOLOVU

"On Tuesday morning his condition worsened and he died at 10am with two prison medical staff in attendance. There was no doctor," they said.

Bophuthatswana authorities said the detailed cause of the death would be made known after a post-mortem.

Lawyers representing Monnane were yesterday still awaiting the results.

Sapa reports more than 140 ANC Youth League members were arrested during protest actions organised countrywide yesterday to demand the release of all political prisoners, particularly those incarcerated in Bophuthatswana, the organisation said.

Regional police spokesmen contacted were unable to confirm the arrests.

More than 40 placard-carrying ANC Youth League members yesterday picketed outside the Bophuthatswana embassy in Pretoria.

Ambassador Joshua Manyapelo told delegates he could allow only two people in the building to hold talks or present their case.

DARIUS SANAI

Anglican bishops said change in SA had been too slow for them to be able to recommend lifting sanctions.

Crawford-Browne said financial sanctions had proved successful and that it would be "tragic" if the reform process in SA stalled if they were lifted prematurely.

He said it was clear the majority of blacks were not affected by sanctions, and attacked the "uncompetitiveness" of the SA economy, adding that the domination of the economy by Anglo American and its associates would be illegal in terms of US anti-trust laws.

ANC out to sell sanctions to US visitors

THE ANC would try to convince a group of visiting American celebrities to urge the US Congress to keep sanctions, ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said yesterday.

The 33-strong delegation on the Democracy Now tour, scheduled to arrive in Johannesburg on Sunday, includes lobbyist Randall

DAVE LOURENS

Robinson, musician Quincy Jones, former Wimbledon champion Arthur Ashe and congressman Maxine Waters.

The visitors will meet the ANC national executive committee, president Nelson Mandela, labour

leaders and businessmen during their two-day stay.

Niehaus said they would be taken to townships to familiarise them with the SA situation, and would hold talks on the US role.

Sapa reports that Home Affairs Minister Gene Louw said yesterday government would not oppose

the tour.

In a statement from Pretoria, he said government was trying to obtain and accommodate divergent points of view on the road ahead for SA. "If necessary government will act appropriately to ensure... negative effects from... this visit are effectively countered," he said.

Multiparty talks start to take shape

CONSTITUTION Minister Gerrit Viljoen and ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa met yesterday to organise multiparty talks for later this year.

Viljoen and Ramaphosa said in a joint statement "representatives of government/NP and the ANC met this morning to hold exploratory talks on the organising of the multiparty/all-party conference". Their discussions were not completed and further meetings would be held soon.

The announcement comes in the wake of a series of bilateral meetings that both government and the ANC have been conducting with other parties.

Senior sources in government and the ANC indicated yesterday that both parties

BILLY PADDOCK

want an independent group to convene multiparty talks and have suggested a church-business grouping for the task.

Before yesterday's meeting, Ramaphosa said the ANC believed multiparty talks should be convened before the year end, and had entered into intense bilateral negotiations towards this end. Talks had been held with Azapo, the PAC, the SACP, Cosatu and the DP. The ANC was also "preparing immediately to engage in bilateral talks with all other parties including the NP, LP, Inkatha Freedom Party, parties to the non-independent homelands and the governments of Venda and Transkei".

Angola wants reparations from SA

WINDHOK — Angola planned to discuss reparations of about R70m with SA for damage caused to the country during its 16-year civil war.

Angolan Foreign Affairs Minister Pedro de Castro van Dunem made the statement at a media briefing for journalists at the Commonwealth summit in Harare.

Van Dunem, who is attending the summit as an observer, said Angola was morally entitled to request SA to repair the damage it caused during the civil war.

BILLY PADDOCK reports that

Department of Foreign Affairs director-general Neil van Heerden said last night SA was not involved with Angola on the issue of reparations and had no intention of becoming involved.

Van Dunem also said his country looked forward to developing close economic ties with Pretoria.

"I think Angola can be a big ally of SA economically speaking," he said.

Angola was potentially a rich country and could offer resources such as oil and cheap energy to SA in return for technical expertise, the Angolan said. — Sapa-Reuter.

S.A office in Kenya

THE SA Department of Foreign Affairs had set up a diplomatic office in Nairobi, Kenya, senior foreign affairs sources said last night. The Kenyan government had not wanted the establishment of the office made known until after the Commonwealth Summit in Harare, they said. The Kenya office and a similar one in Morocco were set up two months ago.

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