

Sharp criticism of ANC voting age suggestion

The Daily News 25-05-93

MARTIN CHALLENGOR
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN: If South Africa lowered the voting age from 18 years as African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela wanted, it would be in the same league as North Korea, Cuba, Iran and Nicaragua, the Democratic Party has pointed out.

Mr Mandela has stirred a hornets' nest with his suggestion that people of 14 vote in South Africa's first democratic election as a reward for the sacrifices they made in the fight against apartheid.

In a statement today, Roger Burrows, DP spokesman on education, said he had analysed the electoral systems of 150 countries. Of these, 19 countries had voting ages of 21; nine of 20; three of 18; three of 17 — Seychelles, North Korea and Indonesia; and four of 16 — Brazil, Cuba, Iran and Nicaragua.

Mr Burrows said: "The absurd suggestion that children of 14, whatever horrific or heroic experiences they have undergone, should be permitted to vote in



ROGER BURROWS
'Absurd' idea

South Africa's first attempt at democracy cannot be seriously considered.

"None of the other countries in Africa have voting ages below 18. Some have voting ages of 21. It is surely only constitutionally correct that voters should be able to stand for the office they select.

"It is to be hoped that the

young people will devote their time to education," he said.

DP MPs worked out yesterday that there were 3.8 million people from all population groups, and including the TBVC states, in the age bracket of 14 to 18.

Olaus van Zyl, executive director of the National Party, said today that the ANC wanted 14-year-olds to vote because they were concerned about their support among moderate adults.

Mr Mandela's idea was "ridiculous and is rejected as political opportunism".

Mr Mandela had made this call because of "panic and deep concern within the ANC's own ranks about their real support amongst moderate, clear-headed adult South Africans".

Mr van Zyl said this was a cheap and transparent political ploy to try to pressure the Government into accepting a voting age of lower than 18, but not necessarily 14. It was also a desperate attempt by the ANC leadership to bend over backwards to try to placate radical elements within the youth league.

16/1/11

Sexwale has pivotal role to play in SA

By ALEC RUSSELL

JOHANNESBURG — In 13 years as a political prisoner Tokyo Sexwale, the ANC's up-and-coming leader, indulged a range of fantasies about the future to while away the long hours behind bars.

But not in his most fevered dreams could he have imagined that he would become a sex-symbol for white housewives in Johannesburg's northern suburbs.

The ANC's regional chairman for Pretoria and Johannesburg, Mr Sexwale (40) has been an important figure in the organisation's hierarchy since his release from Robben Island in May 1990.

In the eyes of the black youth he has impeccable political credentials. After military and political training in Moscow, in the 1970s he participated in the ANC's campaign to destabilise the white government.

Women callers

However, in the aftermath of last month's assassination of his friend and colleague Chris Hani, the ANC deputy chairman and leader of the South African Communist Party, he has converted his cult status in the townships into national prominence.

In a radio phone-in survey on the popular independent station, Radio 702, Mr Sexwale was dubbed the most charismatic politician in South Africa with many of the white women callers mentioning his sex appeal.

The catalytic moment in this dramatic change of attitude came when Mr Sexwale was seen on TV weeping openly over Mr Hani's body in the town of Boksburg, where the two ANC politicians lived. Like Hani, Tokyo Sexwale has won over many of his



TOKYO SEXWALE after Chris Hani was shot. Black youth regard his political credentials as impeccable.

neighbours in Boksburg, until recently the most reactionary of white mining towns.

In the week of rioting that followed the murder, Mr Sexwale, who is married to an Afrikaner, firmly allied himself to the moderate wing of the ANC and pleaded with the townships for calm.

At the Hani funeral he cut an impressive, authoritative figure in smart combat fatigues. Watched on TV by tens of thousands of anxious whites, he swiftly defused several potential

flashpoints, including a moment when hotheads tried to translate a 21-gun graveside salute into an attack on neighbouring white suburbs.

Hardline

This show of responsibility has earned him the respect and support of many whites, who are alarmed at the anti-white statements uttered by a more radical wing of the ANC.

In the radio phone-in, Mr Sexwale earned his accolade ahead of the hardline white leaders Ferdi Hartzenberg, the new head of the Conservative Party and Eugene Terre'Blanche head of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB).

'Tsotsi'

For a man who started life as a township 'tsotsi', or tearaway, his sudden elevation to political popularity with whites is even more remarkable. He earned the name 'Tokyo' with his early mastery of Oriental martial arts.

Under the firm hand of his father, Frank, who had served with the Allied forces in the Western Desert, he managed to divert his energy to schooling, finally winning a place at the University of Swaziland. His degree course in business studies was cut short when the authorities discovered his political involvement and he was obliged to flee.

Asked to comment on his new status, Mr Sexwale said that it was a sign of the changes in South Africa, signalling the end of the white stereotype of the ANC leaders as "terrorists with horns and tails".

Mr Sexwale is very much in the Chris Hani mould, an articulate speaker with sound revolutionary background, who can appeal to the radicalised youth but has renounced his original Marxist ideology.

Extremists

South African political analysts suggest he may soon assume Mr Hani's position in the ANC — a prediction which he does nothing to deny. "Watch this space," he said, in response to the speculation about the direction of his career.

However, he warns that the real test for South Africa will come after the first multi-racial elections when ANC moderates will be at risk from the extremists exploiting continuing social unrest and the inevitably slow rate of change.

"We're in control but there is huge potential for slipping out of control.

As we move forward I hear the sound of horses hooves behind us ... the same people who voted for Robespierre cut him down. The same people who vote for Mandela could vote him down tomorrow." — © The Telegraph plc, London.

ANC mask slips

THE ANC has always claimed to be the champion of non-racialism and equity in South Africa and this forms the foundation of its professed political platform. This is a noble and commendable crusade, provided it is honest and sincere.

The recent demands for protection against attacks on farmers in the Transvaal and OFS caused the mask to slip and elicited an immediate response from the ANC's hierarchy claiming that such security measures were arrogant and insensitive, and were an indication of the racism of the SAP which still protects Whites against Blacks.

It objected to taxpayers' money being used to protect the lives of a small, privileged White sector, but does not acknowledge that these farmers make a substantial contribution to the tax revenue of the country as

well as being responsible for the bulk of the country's food production.

It would seem that the ANC is aiming to provoke the farmers to take the law into their own hands and to take up arms, which would give the ANC the opportunity to orchestrate a race war to their advantage. This must be prevented at all cost.

By these statements the ANC has exposed the truth that its own thinking and ideology is deeply entrenched in racism and that its claims to being non-racial are nothing more than make-believe.

The ANC statement demonstrates that they consider assistance to be merited on the basis of skin colour rather than circumstances.

The ANC is playing to the constituency it perceives as its power base by twisting anything and everything into pro-Black, anti-White, yet it

faces the White electorate and the world at large wearing a mask of non-racial moderation.

Such duplicity is a portent of what can be expected should the ANC achieve power in South Africa.

It is worth reminding ourselves that the tenets of Communist conquest are force, cunning, deceit and make-believe, which are employed ruthlessly to secure the submission of a target state. The moral has nothing to do with the political. South Africa is the target and the end justifies the means.

Our country needs and must have reform, but too many significant sectors of the population are being effectively negated in the negotiating process. The ANC's mask must be removed for everyone to see its true face, so that all parties know what they are dealing with.

WASP

Umhlanga Rocks

16/1/11

Six die in surge of local violence

By JACKIE CAMERON
Crime Reporter

A POLICEMAN was shot dead and the bodies of two murdered men were found in a shack in Crossroads yesterday, bringing to six the number of people killed in unrest-related incidents in local townships since the weekend.

Special Sergeant Joseph Walelo, who was stationed in the internal stability unit, was shot dead at the front door of his Section 3, Crossroads, shack yesterday around 10am, police said.

Sergeant Walelo, in his 40s, went to his front door after hearing a commotion and was discovered dead by his wife after she heard a shot.

Also in Crossroads yesterday, the bodies of two men were found dead in a shack after a man kicked open the door and opened fire with a shotgun.

Necklace

Police said residents in the area spotted the gunman, who killed Mr Tozamele Mathoba, 31, and another man, 30, who may not be identified until his next of kin have been informed, on Sunday night but failed to report the incident until the next morning.

On Saturday in Khayelitsha assistant police constables S Mbhanga and M Ngoza were necklaced by a crowd who mistook them for members of a gang of armed men who have been terrorising townships.

Mr Mzima Mdama, 55, of Lower Crossroads, died at the weekend after being shot by an intruder.

Police said they did not believe there was a new campaign of violence by any political group.

No arrests have been made in connection with any of the murders.

● Eleven policemen have died on duty in the Western Cape since the beginning of the year, a police spokesman said.

Mandela call 'is highly unusual'

From CHRIS BATEMAN

LONDON. — Political analysts here say ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela's call to lower the voting age to 14 is "highly unusual".

Professor Patrick Dunleavy, chief lecturer in modern political theory and voting behaviour at the London School of Economics (LSE), said most liberal democracies had had a franchise age of 21 until the early 1970s, when it was dropped to 18.

Professor Jack Spence, of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, said Mr Mandela was "trying to keep the youth in line".

Dr Margot Light, senior lecturer in International Relations at the LSE, said: "I assume the suggestion is to give youths a vested interest in the system, rather than have alternative politics."

24 killed in Natal unrest

Own Correspondent

MARITZBURG. — Two Inkatha Freedom Party supporters were shot dead and another six seriously wounded when a minibus taxi travelling through Wembezi near Estcourt was ambushed by an AK-47-wielding gunman early yesterday.

SA Police spokesman Captain Henry Budhram said a taxi taking 12 people to work at 6.15am was attacked by a man who flagged down the vehicle, and then opened fire at close range.

IFP spokesman Mr Ed Tillet said the minibus was travelling through Depo section, an ANC stronghold, when it was riddled with bullets. He also called for an increased security presence in the township.

Mr Tillet called for an immediate visible increase in the security presence in the township including foot and vehicle patrols.

The motive for the attack has not been established.

● Violence has also flared up in the Eshowe area and the

town is flooding with refugees from the nearby townships, where a series of attacks over the past two weeks has left at least 13 people dead.

● At Bulwer at the weekend, four people, including a five month-old girl, were killed and at least six people wounded in separate attacks by gunmen.

On Sunday a girl was killed in Bhidle and at Kwaxosheyakhe many people were injured and were treated in hospital.

● Three members of the KwaZulu Police and one South

African policeman were shot dead and three other people were injured in an armed hijacking near Sezela on the Natal South Coast yesterday.

● Police found the body of an Edendale man, Mr Nkosinathi Zondi, 23, on the Dambuza Road at the weekend. He had been shot once through the head.

● In East London police yesterday uncovered an arms cache near Mooiplaas in the Komga area.

— Own Correspondent and Sapa

STEVE MATTHEWSON follows Nelson Mandela round the heartland of Northern Natal. Steve Matthewson also took the pictures.

Mandela on the election trail . . .

Natal Mercury 25/5/92

IT WASN'T quite the 1992 Bill Clinton bus brigade through the hills of California or the swamps of Florida.

But it was clear that Nelson Mandela had officially hit the election trail as his Mercedes and entourage swept past coal dumps through the Northern Natal heartland at the weekend.

Armed to the teeth with a range of speeches aimed at different audiences — from militant youth in war-torn townships to fairly affluent Indian entrepreneurs and storekeepers, he made no bones about the fact that he was out to get votes — and money — for the African National Congress.

The exhausting pace of the social functions, rallies and public meetings didn't seem to affect the 74-year-old president until the final press conference at a club in Newcastle, where he still managed to keep his sense of humour in the face of a barrage of questions on his demand that the voting age be lowered to 14.

The only constituents of the area that probably weren't particularly impressed were a crew of AWB members and their families, who first gathered outside the Moth Hall in Dundee while Mr Mandela had tea inside on Saturday.

Mr Mandela started off at a breakfast in Estcourt's town hall with a warning to a group of mainly Indian businessmen and the mayor, Mrs Rina Odendaal, that many people had "exaggerated and distorted" the ANC's policies, to the effect that blacks were going to dominate the other races and that the organisation was going to "nationalise everything".

Expounding on the ANC's commitment to "multi-party government with regular elections", he said it wanted to ensure all groups were fully represented.

The ANC believed any party which gained the vote of more than 5% of the electorate should have a voice in the new assembly, while the National Party wanted this requirement to be 10%, he said.

It was at that breakfast that he first

raised the matter of money, challenging the audience to better the effort at a similar meeting at Tongaat last year, where R80 000 was raised for the ANC.

Indeed, they responded — apparently an anonymous donor passed a cheque for R3 000 up to the party on the stage.

The theme of financial support continued at the weekend with Mr Mandela — at a rally that evening in a sports hall in Ladysmith — citing the good examples of India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Peoples' Republic of China, which had collectively contributed 55 million US dollars (about R150 million).

Even the Newcastle-based Taiwanese factory owners got in on the act and gave him a donation when he visited their town.

Dundee was a slightly different kettle of political fish.

After an hour-long drive through the vast, rolling, uninhabited white-owned farm land, (which might well have pricked his thoughts on the demands for redistribution of farm land) he lunched at the home of a prominent former soccer club owner.

It was at the rally at Dundee's Kallies Stadium a little later, in front of a crowd of about 2 000, including many teenagers, that Mr Mandela dropped the bombshell that the ANC wanted the voting age lowered from 18 to 14.

"Our youth went abroad, sometimes at the age of 12, and trained and fought (as members of MK). Some never returned from the battlefield — they paid the highest price.

"Now that we have come to the elections we are told the people who were at the forefront of the struggle cannot vote," he said, before mentioning that seven countries allowed those under the age of 18 to vote.

However, there were indications later on Sunday, after reaction to the idea had begun flowing in, that he was willing to negotiate a compromise on this issue.

After rousing the "young lions" he seemingly turned to the older members of the audience with a message that he would meet with IFP president Mangosuthu Buthelezi, despite the ANC's preconditions, if Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini was to facilitate the summit.

Praising the king and his ancestors as "great men of dignity", he hailed the monarch as "not only the king of the Zulus, but of all South Africa's people, black and white — and I call on you to respect him".

Another celebrity to crop up here was Zimbabwe Minister of Information Mrs Victoria Chitepo, who was born in the Dundee area.

Here, too, Mr Mandela gave further reassurance to any fearful minorities, pledging the ANC's devotion to religious freedom after Christian, Hindu and Muslim clerics opened the rally with prayers — a practice maintained at all meetings.

Even Afrikaners got a look in when he told a Newcastle audience that the CP and AWB were not working in the interests of this group, but that several Afrikaners had joined the democratic struggle.

In Madadeni, a sprawling collection of box-like houses near the coal mines, which has been the scene of repeated clashes between the ANC and the IFP recently, Mr Mandela asked supporters to stop blaming other organisations for violence — "the ANC and the IFP are both involved" he said.

Standing on a podium in the same field where the charred body of ANC Youth League leader Prof Sibankulu was found, he repeated his call that members initiate programmes of peace with rivals.

Avoiding any references to opposing organisations, he called on ANC supporters to defend themselves, but never to retaliate to avenge an attack.

"Only cowards who fear democracy resort to violence. Brave men and women are not afraid to talk peace."

16/1/11

Shooting: ANC want consumer boycott

Citizen Reporter

A TWO-DAY stay-away in the district of Bushbuckridge in the Eastern Transvaal has been called by the African National Congress and its allies, in response to the shooting of a minibus taxi by members of the South African Defence Force on May 15.

A woman was killed and her baby and other

passengers sustained injuries in the incident.

Eastern Transvaal ANC spokesman, Mr Jackson Mthembu, said the stay-away would take place tomorrow and Thursday.

He said the stay-away action would be accompanied by demonstration and marches to all police stations in the district.

According to Mr Mthembu, the proposed

action was aimed at pressuring the SADF to withdraw from all villages in the Bushbuckridge district.

"The ANC demands immediate removal of the SADF from all villages and townships. The ANC further demands that the SADF should be confined to base until joint control of all armed formations, including the SADF, is established."

CITIZEN 25/5/93
Meanwhile, the consumer boycott of White businesses in the Eastern Transvaal entered its second week yesterday, after Saturday's bi-lateral meeting between organised business and the African National Congress alliance, failed to resolve the issue.

Mr Pieter Rootman, executive director of the Regional Development Advisory Committee,

said, however, that a follow-up meeting was being planned for this week.

Mr Jackson Mthembu said both delegations had agreed that the South African Defence Force, the South African Police, the Regional Services Council, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and local government should be present at the meeting.

16/1/11

Violence toll now 44

By Bronwyn Wilkinson
and Anna Louw

Eleven more people were killed in the continuing bloodshed on the East Rand last night and this morning, hours before peace brokers were scheduled to meet representatives of the ANC, IFP and SAP.

The death toll in the fighting, which started with ANC-IFP-SAP clashes on Saturday, is now estimated by police at 44.

Police sealed off Katlehong today after a group of about 200 youths went on the rampage. The ticket office at the Lindela station was set alight.

A group of about 700 gathered in Mandela Park and police used teargas when the crowd, throwing stones and petrol bombs, refused to disperse.

Police fired shots at a gunman in the crowd and wounded him in the upper arm.

Seven people at a nearby taxi rank were wounded when police used birdshot to disperse a mob.

Two policemen were injured when youths stoned and petrol-bombed their vehicles today. A spokesman said officers used shotguns to defend themselves.

The bodies of five people were found in Katlehong's Twala section and three more in Motlaung section today.

An unidentified man and a woman were shot dead and their bodies found locked in the boot of their car in Zonke'Sizwe squatter camp during the night.

An unidentified man was shot dead with an AK-47 rifle in Katlehong's Mokade section.

Two men were shot dead yesterday in separate attacks on police. In the first, a man opened fire on a patrol with an AK-47 rifle and in the second, a man threw a petrol bomb at a truck on the old Vereeniging Road.

Germiston firemen found three charred bodies in a gutted house in Malabela section, Katlehong, late yesterday.

ANC PWV spokesman Vusi Gunene described the situation as "terrible" today and warned non-residents — including journalists — to avoid townships.

National Peace Secretariat spokesman Pirosshaw Camay said today he was hopeful the emergency meeting with the ANC, IFP and SAP today would solve problems arising from marches and mass action.

● The Star did not go into Katlehong or Tokoza today as the editor decided the area was unsafe for journalists.

Executive members among those held

Countrywide swoop on PAC

By Esther Waugh
Political Correspondent

The Pan Africanist Congress today asked the constitutional planning committee to suspend negotiations for the day after the arrest of up to 200 PAC members countrywide.

Many were detained at their homes in an early-morning swoop by police.

At the time of going to press it was not clear whether the planning committee would accede to the PAC's request.

PAC national executive committee members Mike Matsobane, Jaki Seroke, Dr Solly Skosana and Maxwell Nemadzhivanani and Nactu secretary-general Cunningham Ngcukana are among those arrested.

Secretary-general Benny Alexander was also detained, but told The Star he had escaped from police custody.

Two security guards at PAC president Clarence Makwetu's Daveyton home were taken in as well as Skoble Dube, who is responsible for PAC VIP security.

Alexander said police arrived at his Ennerdale home in a car and a Casspir. He was put into the car with the "baby locks" on but someone opened the door from the outside and he ran away.

Alexander said all the regional leaders had been arrested in a swoop on more than 200 homes.

PAC negotiator and NEC member Gora Ebrahim said police came to the Johannesburg hotel where he and Johnson Mlambo were staying but Mhlambo was out of town.

Speaking from the PAC head office, Ebrahim said his office was a "mess" and police had broken into his briefcase.

PAC sources said others arrested were the organisation's northern Transvaal organiser, Phillip Mudau, three members in Soshanguve, four in Pieterburg and three in the far northern Transvaal.

Parliament

Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel said the arrests took place after the completion of extensive police investigations. More arrests were expected.

Details would be given in Parliament this afternoon.

Government spokesman Dave Steward said in Cape Town the Government's consistent position was that one could not negotiate and conduct armed struggle at the same time.

The arrest of, among others, a senior PAC branch official implicated in the Swanepoel murder in the northern Transvaal had indicated PAC involvement.

"Also, the statement recently by a PAC office-bearer at the funeral of an acknowledged member who was killed during an attack on white farmers, indicates evident PAC support for such actions.

"The office-bearer furthermore defended such attacks, leaving very little doubt as to where the organisation stands on this question."

ANC mask slips

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faces the White electorate and the world at large wearing a mask of non-racial moderation.

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WASP

Umtlanga Rocks

Mandela hears of bomb terror

By Happy Nkhoma

ANC peace desk chief Sydney Mufamadi's wife, Nomsa, has described to ANC president Nelson Mandela her terror during two petrol bomb attacks on her Soweto home last week.

When The Star interviewed Mufamadi on Friday, she said the attacks had left her numb with fear. She had just returned home from spending Thursday with relatives after the second attack in 48 hours on Wednesday.

Mufamadi spoke slowly and wiped her tear-filled eyes. And then ANC president Nelson Mandela unexpectedly

arrived.

Addressing Mandela as "Baba", she smiled cheerfully when he gave her a fatherly bear-hug.

With her composure regained, she told him how on the night of the first attack she had blindly run to the burning lounge and been pulled away by her daughter Lindiwe (12), who had phoned the neighbours and the police.

Mandela called the girl to his side and kissed her. He spoke to her about her school and friends and congratulated her on her bravery.

Mufamadi said she had been uneasy ever since an unknown person phoned a paging com-

pany two weeks ago saying Sydney Mufamadi had been assassinated.

She said whenever her husband was out late she would call him and make sure he was safe. She had always stayed awake until he got home.

Between cups of tea, Mandela told Mufamadi she had to continue standing by her husband's side. He would be strong if he found she had handled herself well as such an experience was a test of her strength and character.

The attacks were acts of people who were against peace and progress as democracy would bring an end to their acts of evil.

STAR 24-5-93

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THE CITIZEN COMMENT

Angry?

THE farmers are angry. We don't blame them for being so. There is a campaign to kill farmers, and though the police are stepping up patrols and are going to protect elderly farming couples in high-risk areas, farmers are not satisfied that enough is being done for their security.

At least 12 000 farmers expressed their anger at the recent Potchefstroom rally.

This week 350 farmers at a meeting organised by the Potchefstroom Agricultural Union demanded that the security forces implement a curfew in rural areas, stage raids in Black townships and squatters' camps and hold continuous road-blocks to curb attacks on homesteads.

They also demanded that they be issued with automatic weapons, and threatened to break the law if their demands were not met.

In reply, the regional commissioner for the Western Transvaal, Major-General Tertius Calitz, said it had been jointly decided by a security committee of farmers and members of the SA Police and Defence Force that road-blocks and patrols would be immediately intensified and certain identified premises would be searched for illegal weapons.

An investigation would be carried out to determine the possibility of declaring certain areas unrest areas for the purposes of establishing curfews, but this could only be done by the Minister of Law and Order.

We do not think farmers or anyone else should take the law into their own hands.

They are in commando units which help to control parts of the countryside, but we can't see why, if they so wish, they cannot form self-defence units - as the ANC has done in the townships.

However, they have no right to impose any curfews of their own.

Having said that, we must emphasise that if there is no end to the attacks on farmers and their wives, this country will land in the most ghastly situation.

Farmhouses will become armed fortresses, farmers already heavily armed will take extra measures to protect themselves, and the rural areas will become as destabilised as the towns.

This is no doubt what the terrorists want - to create fear and panic and force farmers, particularly the elderly, off the land.

They must be prevented from achieving their aims.

Food production is bound to suffer if farmers face siege conditions.

And the chances of angry farmers retaliating against those they hold responsible is a very real one.

Matters are not helped by the ANC objecting to any security assistance to farmers.

Western Transvaal ANC media officer, Mr Rankoa Molefa, reacting to a meeting of farmers, police and members of the Defence Force at Potchefstroom this week, said: "The agreements and recommendations made amount to a declaration of war on the people of the Western Transvaal, in particular, and of South Africa, in general, and should they be implemented, mass actions of unimaginable proportions will be embarked upon."

We believe the ANC should revise its ideas, and instead of adopting this hostile attitude towards farmers, should welcome any action to put an end to the murders.

If they go on, the farmers will be polarised against other communities - and an aroused farming community could become a powerful force against change.

We believe it is time the government cut off the head of the terrorist snake by outlawing the organisation or organisations responsible.

It is known that in some areas, like the Eastern Cape and Border region, the Azanian People's Liberation Army is responsible for attacks on farmers - and it has been linked to a murder of a farmer's wife in the Northern Transvaal.

The police have not been able to catch the APLA killers.

But the government has a remedy - it can, and must, outlaw APLA, declare unrest areas and impose curfews where necessary, and reimpose the death penalty.



Fanning the flames . . . a woman places a tyre on top of
a burning corpse in Phole Park yesterday afternoon.

Laughter as woman burns

By Bronwyn Wilkinson

The crowd lining the road on the edge of Phola Park was the signal that — yet again — something was wrong.

As we drove through the crowd, a woman shouted: "Tshis'inyama" ("Braai the meat") and we knew we had stumbled across a necklacing.

About 20 people crowded around the burning body of a woman behind a refuse bin just off the road. Most of them were armed with spears, axes and sharpened

metal poles.

The men in the crowd grinned as they explained that the woman — believed to be an Inkatha office-bearer from Kwesine Section — had been kidnapped from the nearby hostel, dragged back to the squatter camp and murdered.

Tyres were then placed around her neck and she was set alight, left to burn in front of the laughing crowd.

The smell of roasting flesh pervaded the air.

A young man took a spear, poked the flaming body, and

put the flesh in a cup.

"Muti," he explained with a shrug.

Earlier, the squatter camp rattled with gunfire as police in a Casspir shot at the shacks from a road about 200 m away.

Residents, armed to the teeth with guns and makeshift weapons, ducked and dived behind shacks as the police bullets sailed overhead. Some fired back.

Residents of the squatter camp were adamant that po-

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Laughter as woman burns

● From Page 1

lice had opened fire without provocation, but the police in the Casspir told reporters they had fired only when fired on.

At least one volley of fire from the Casspir came out of the blue, without warning or provocation.

Reporters caught between the squatter camp and the Casspir dived for cover behind a car and screamed at the police to stop shooting. The police left.

Policemen and faceless gunmen expended hundreds of bullets yesterday.

Burning barricades shot up after at least two drive-by shootings and as rumours spread that hostel inmates were preparing for an attack.

In Tokoza's main road, a young woman screamed uncontrollably. She had just seen her brother — who was watering the lawn at the time — being gunned down by men who drove down the road in three cars, firing wildly as they went.

Youths manning the barricades all over the township scattered as police cars or armoured vehicles came into sight.

At one barricade, an armoured police van chased youths for several minutes, shooting at the fleeing youths from the cover of their speeding van.

The smoke from the youths' barricade filtered upwards, mingling with that from other barricades, burning houses and flaming taxis.

Sporadic gunfire and ghostly screaming provided a running soundtrack.

For several hours we chased after fires, gunfire or speeding Casspirs, negotiating our way through barricades by giving money instead of the petrol demanded by the youths wanting to make bombs.

It was impossible to keep track of the casualties as violence swept through the townships in a day of seemingly unstoppable warfare.

IFP demands security after taxi fired on

Crime Reporter and Sapa

The IFP yesterday called for extra security in Natal's Wembezi township after two of its members died and six others were seriously injured in an AK-47 attack on a minibus taxi.

The minibus, transporting 12 IFP supporters to work, was ambushed at about 6.15 am, police said.

Natal SAP spokesman Captain Henry Budhram said the gunman waved the minibus down in Depo Section, pretending he wanted to go to Estcourt.

As the minibus stopped, the man riddled it with bullets.

Budhram said 11 bullet holes were found in the vehicle, and police recovered 15 spent AK-47 cartridges at the scene.

IFP spokesman Ed Tillet, who called for an immediate security force increase in the area, described Wembezi — an ANC stronghold — as a "hell run" for IFP supporters who had to travel through the township to enter Estcourt.

"IFP members daily have to run the gauntlet of stoppings and being shot at," he said.

The Star 25/5/93

Farmer abducted, guns stolen

Crime Reporter

Three masked men attacked a Free State farmer and his family in their home yesterday, stealing money and firearms and abducting the farmer before dumping him near the Chris Hani squatter camp in Sasolburg.

Free State police spokesman Captain Johlene van der Merwe said the attackers, armed with an AK-47 rifle and two handguns, burst into Hendrik Cronje's farmhouse, Panama, in Parys and demanded money and firearms.

Cronje's family and friends who were visiting were locked in the bathroom while Cronje was ordered to open the safe and hand its contents to the robbers.

He gave them three rifles, including a Musgrave and a Sako, and an Astra pistol with ammunition. They also took R1 400 cash.

They then ordered Cronje into his Toyota Avante car and drove him to the Chris Hani squatter camp.

After being dumped, Cronje called the police, who later recovered his car and the three rifles near the squatter camp.

None of the Cronje family was injured.

Few black consumers seen as boycott hits Alberton

By Anna Louw
East Rand Bureau

The ANC-orchestrated consumer boycott to protest against Alberton Town Council's failure to amalgamate with Tokoza got under way yesterday.

Alberton Sakekame chairman Marius van der Merwe said he could not comprehend the motive behind the boycott as a committee representing the ANC, PAC, IFP, the town council and local businessmen was established in August to implement joint administration of Tokoza.

Van der Merwe said the forum had been created for negotiation, and a reportback meeting had been scheduled for yesterday but the ANC and PAC had failed to attend.

"We are disappointed with

the ANC's decision to hold a boycott." He said channels of communication with the ANC had always been open and "everyone was willing to help".

Van der Merwe said very few black consumers were seen in the town yesterday.

Alberton Town Council management committee chairman Johann van der Merwe confirmed that the assistant town treasurer had already been appointed to act as Tokoza's chief executive officer and that the upgrading of services had already begun.

Van der Merwe said it was a consumer's "right to take part in a boycott, but this boycott is not justified". He said the boycott would temporarily hurt local business but he did not believe it could go on indefinitely.

Township tensions explode

By Helen Grange

Tensions have been simmering for months in Katlehong and Tokoza, exploding on Saturday into full-scale conflict in Tokoza in which all parties failed to co-operate in keeping peace. A spiral of revenge attacks now looks set to grip the region.

This was the ominous picture peace monitors painted yesterday as they struggled throughout the day to defuse violence spreading rapidly through East Rand townships.

Peace sources said the situation had spun out of control and that working on the ground had become dangerous. One source said he had crawled through the veld after being caught in the crossfire between Tokoza residents and police on Saturday.

Stabbed

He said all parties were not co-operating with one another. The catalyst for Saturday's violence between ANC and IFP supporters, however, lay in previous clashes.

One of the causes was the clash outside the Rand Supreme Court between East Rand ANC and IFP supporters which took place on May 14, according to one monitor.

At least two people were stabbed in violence that erupted after an ANC member appeared in court in connection with the murder of an IFP member.

Another incident likely to have contributed to the current violence was the conflict which broke out at the funeral of the wife of controversial clergyman Bishop Solomon Khumalo.

One person died and another was injured in the clash between mourners and Tokoza residents. Bishop Khumalo is allegedly leader of the Khumalo Gang, which residents claim was responsible for at least 17 murders in Tokoza.

Last Thursday, the ANC invited the local peace committee (LPC) to discuss the march



Giving comfort . . . the ANC's Walter Sisulu (right) and Steve Tshwete visit victims of the East Rand shooting yesterday. Here they talk to Paulos Vusumzi Sogwaqa, who was shot through both legs.
Picture: Ken Oosterbroek

planned for Saturday. But, according to one monitor, the route past the hostel had already been agreed to by the time LPC representatives arrived for the meeting.

"We asked for additional police presence outside the hostel, but on Saturday morning there were only two police Casspirs at the stadium.

"We were not given sufficient notice of the march plans. An agreement struck in September on communicating plans to other parties was also breached.

"When the marchers reached the hostel, the hostel dwellers declared the road a 'no-go' area. There are double standards regarding no-go areas. Nobody can declare no-go areas," the monitor said.

Parties, he added, were not complying with the National Peace Accord, and without their co-operation, peace monitors could do little to stop revenge attacks that were expected to continue in the area.

Compensation for attacked policemen

CAPE TOWN — The Government would pay compensation to police officers whose homes and property were destroyed in unrest attacks, Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel said yesterday.

Introducing his budget vote in Parliament, Kriel said that last year 226 members of the police force were murdered. Already this year 60 members had been slain.

Kriel warned people who thought they could shoot at police officers not to cry when the full might of the SAP came down on them.

So far this year, policemen

had lost R5 million worth of possessions in arson and unrest attacks on their homes. The Government would financially help police officers who lost possessions this way.

Families of "our people who lose their lives" could bank on the fact that "we will not forget them or their dependents".

This year, 717 people had been killed in 5 614 unrest incidents, and possessions worth R58 million had been lost.

In the past few months, 59 Umkhonto we Sizwe members had been arrested for murder and other serious crimes, he added. — Political Staff.

Kriel: We'll use full force to stop the slayings

By Brian Stuart

CAPE TOWN. — A warning that "Enough is enough!" was made by Mr Hernus Kriel, Minister of Law and Order, yesterday in stating that the full force of the law would be used to put an end to the killing of policemen.

The government is considering financial support for policemen whose property is destroyed or damaged in attacks.

Families of policemen who lost their lives would also be assisted, Mr Kriel told Parliament in speaking to the debate on the police vote.

"It is not a question of

whether the government will do it, but how. The SA Police can be assured that they will be supported by the government, with thanks and appreciation.

"Without the diligence and the perseverance displayed by policemen and women to bring about peace, South Africa would long ago have sank into a bottomless pit of bloodshed, anarchy and civil war."

However, the police paid an enormous price for this selfless service.

They were not only subject to false accusations and suspicion, but paid with their lives.

A total of 226 policemen were killed last year, and the figure had already risen to more than 60 violently killed this year, including the cold-blooded murder in an ambush in Dobsonville on May 5.

The figures were especially "frightening" when deaths in previous years were compared. About one policeman was killed on average each month during the 1970s, and two

per month in the 1980s.

The death rate rose to 13.4 in 1991 and 19.1 per month last year.

"That cannot be tolerated. I would today warn those who think they can shoot at policemen and women with impunity: Don't cry when you are struck by the full force that the police possess. Enough is enough!"

Also affecting the morale of the police was the burning of their homes and possessions, with a value of about R5 million.

"I wish to announce that the government is giving very serious attention to giving financial help to policemen in these circumstances."

The use of new training courses and protection techniques would help protect police, in addition to the use of armoured vehicles and body armour. If necessary, additional steps would be taken.

"Policemen and women deserve only the best when it comes to their personal safety," Mr Kriel said.

Attacks on police had sharpened. This reflected a country in which radicalism was increasingly manifesting itself.

Until May 23 this year, a total of 717 people had already been killed in unrest, while damage to property amounted to R58 million. There had been 5 614 incidents of unrest already this year.

WHITE PUPILS TO GET FEES BACK

By Brian Stuart

CAPE TOWN. — An estimated 67 400 White scholars will have their matriculation examination fees — about R5 million — returned as a result of a decision to extend the suspension of fees to White schools.

Last week Mr Sam de Beer, Minister of Education and Training, an-

nounced the suspension of fees for Black pupils in the Department of Education and Training.

The suspension of examination fees, now affecting all pupils of all population groups, raises the amount that must be found from R16,8 million, for the DET alone, to about R32 million.

The position of White pupils was discussed yesterday by the Ministers'

Council of the House of Assembly, under the chairmanship of Mr Adriaan Vlok.

Mr Piet Marais, Minister of National Education, who is also Minister of Education and Culture in the House of Assembly, gave the meeting facts and figures on the costs involved if White fees were to be refunded.

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Pupils to get fees back

FROM PAGE 1

The Ministers' Council decided to make available the amount which the department would have lost by the suspension of fees. This means the money will not have to be sought from the private sector.

A joint statement by Mr Vlok and Mr Marais said: "Examination fees for pupils of the department are being suspended for this year.

"All monies which have already been paid will be returned as soon as possible.

"The decision was also taken in the light of present sensitivities, with due allowance for the general economic situation and after thorough consultation with interested parties."

Agreement to allow any education department to suspend examination fees for this year was taken at last week's top-level meeting between the government and the ANC, headed by State President De Klerk and Mr Nelson Mandela.

It was part of a package of agreements which led to the Congress of SA Students calling off protests and the proposed strike at DET schools being suspended.

Mr Andrew Gerber, Conservative Party spokesman on national education, met Mr Marais yesterday to discuss the situation of White pupils.

He said after the meeting that he was satisfied with the government's decision to suspend the fees for White pupils.

Mr Roger Burrows, Democratic Party education spokesman, said the examination fee saga was degenerating into a farce.

DET suspended fees, announcing it would attempt to raise the R16,8 million necessary from private sources and foreign funding.

However, the announcement by Mr Vlok was that about R5 million in state funding — the money of taxpayers — would be used to repay the fees to White pupils. This appeared ridiculous, as it meant that

White and Black taxpayers were paying the fees for White pupils, but not assisting candidates in other education departments.

"Perhaps the National Party could explain this racist allocation," said Mr Burrows.

The executive of the Transvaalse Onderwysvereniging (TO) yesterday expressed its disappointment with the way in which the government had handled the crisis in Black education and said it would reconsider relations with the government and education authorities.

The chairman of the TO, Prof Hennie Maree, said the TO had taken note with dismay of the one-sided way in which the government had handled and had taken decisions on the so-called education crisis.

The government had a right to have talks with the ANC and the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU), but it was a gross negation of established

conventions and statutory prescription to come to binding agreements which would affect the whole South African community and teaching community without broad consultation.

The executive of the TO meets in Pretoria tomorrow to reconsider its position and future relationships with the government and education authorities.

Prof Maree said the TO would be making contact with the Teachers' Federal Council and the National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa.

These organisations, he said, represented by far the most teachers in South Africa and were also not involved by the government in the latest negotiations.

The TO understood the dissatisfaction of its members, Prof Maree added, but called on all teachers to exercise the "highest measure of restraint" and to strive for correct conduct in terms of the professional code of conduct for teachers.

Billion dollars pledge to S Africa

LONDON. — The World Bank said yesterday it was ready to allocate a billion dollars in loans to South Africa once power is handed over to a representative government.

"The prospects are excellent," the Bank's regional vice-president for Africa, Mr Edward Jaycox, told a news briefing in London, on his way to South Africa for a week-long visit.

Such loans would be the bank's first to South Africa since apartheid became entrenched there more than three decades ago.

Mr Jaycox said a government acceptable to the Black majority must be in place before the bank could make the

World Bank's pledge

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loans, for projects including housing, health and telecommunications.

"We can't lend to South Africa unless there's a representative government," he said. But he added: "In my view that doesn't have to be an elected government. I expect this to happen as soon as we get a transitional government."

Mr Jaycox said the bank could not subsidise the White minority in redressing imbalances and there was no way the loans could be concessional.

The World Bank estimates the wealth of South Africa, the world's biggest gold exporter, averages around \$2 500 (R8 000) per person per year compared with \$80 in neighbouring Mozambique.

Mr Jaycox said the bank had started preparing the projects with the African National Congress and Pan Africanist Congress. "When they tell us, we're ready to go," he said of the major Black nationalist groups.

Development pro-

jects had to tackle the needs of Black South Africans who were forcibly resettled under apartheid in tribal homelands or made to live in townships some distance from the economic centres of White towns and cities.

"These are political areas," he said. "We've got to get people living closer to where work is... Land reform is involved as well."

But with many Black youths impatient for radical redistribution of wealth, Mr Jaycox added: "If the African majority think they're all going to have ranch-style houses and two-car garages, then we're in trouble." — Sapa-Reuter.

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No trace of 14-yr-old voters

By Brian Stuart

CAPE TOWN. — No-where in Africa nor in the stable democracies of the World is there voting under the age of 18, political spokesmen said yesterday, in condemning Mr Nelson Mandela's call to lower the voting age to 14.

The hunt for the countries which Mr Mandela claimed allowed 14-year-olds to vote went on in libraries in various cities yesterday, but in vain.

It is estimated there are some 3.8 million South Africans between the

ages of 14 and 18, including the TBVC states.

Since making his initial controversial call for 14 as the voting age, Mr Mandela has defended his proposal.

"We know of seven countries — there may be more — where the age is less than 18 and in some cases as low as 14," he said.

Nobody in the National Party, Conservative Party or Democratic Party could trace a single country with a voting age that low, in spite of consulting

a number of authorities on voting systems.

Describing the proposal that the vote should be reduced to 14 as "absurd", the Democratic party said yesterday a survey of 150 nations showed no country with a voting age below 16.

Mr Roger Burrows, DP spokesman on education, said he had consulted Electoral Systems, a worldwide comparative study of voting, produced by the Interparliamentary Union in Geneva in 1993.

An analysis of the sys-

tems followed in 150 countries shows that four had a voting age of 16. These were Brazil, Cuba, Iraq and Nicaragua.

Three had a voting age of 17 — Seychelles, North Korea and Indonesia.

Most countries — 112 of the 150 — had a voting age of 18. In three countries the age was 19, in nine it was 20, and in 19 countries it was 21 years of age.

"None of the countries in Africa has a voting age below 18. Some have a voting age of 21," said Mr Burrows.

"It is surely constitutionally correct that voters should be able to stand for the office they select."

NP executive director, Mr Olaus van Zyl said political parties, academics and public figures had been stunned by the statement, since 14-year-olds voted in no functional democracy anywhere in the world.

"We reject the ANC Youth League's call for debate on this topic, as it does not deserve serious consideration."

During the most recent elections in Africa, including Kenya, Zimbabwe and Namibia, as well as in South America and Eastern countries, 18 had been the minimum voting age.

"The reason for Mr Mandela's remarks therefore seem to be panic and deep concern within their own ranks about their real support among moderate, clearheaded, adult South Africans."

Vote for 14-year-olds 'the Cambodia option'

GIVING the vote to 14-year-olds in South Africa would simply be to constitutionalise Cambodia's killing fields here, Mr Tony Leon (DP Houghton) said yesterday.

He was commenting, in debate on the Law and Order Vote, on a proposal at the weekend by ANC president, Mr Nelson Mandela, that the voting age be lowered to 14.

Mr Leon said that despite a search through the Library of Parliament, he and his colleague, Mr Roger Burrows, had been unable to find a single country in the world that allowed 14-year-olds to vote.

They had however found five countries that enfranchised youngsters of 16 to 18. These included countries such as North Korea and Nicara-

gua.

Only one country — the Philippines — allowed 15-year-olds to cast ballots, and that concession had been introduced by "that well-known apostle of democracy", Mr Ferdinand Marcos.

Mr Leon said he was quite sure that COSAS would be in the streets next week demanding that the voting age be lowered to 14.

He asked whether Mr Mandela's statement meant that the ANC was pursuing power to the exclusion of everything else that should be of value in South Africa.

"Because if it is, we are doomed ... we face the Cambodia option. Giving the vote to a 14-year-old is simply to constitutionalise Cambodia in SA."

Earlier, introducing the vote, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Hernus Kriel, said the National Party rejected Mr Mandela's proposal.

Govt gets flak on delay in accepting MPLA

CAPE TOWN. —South Africa will not grant official recognition to the MPLA Government in Angola until a fully-representative administration is in place.

A Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman said, in response to a call by African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela that the Angolan Government be recognised, that it would be inappropriate to grant recognition until a fully-representative government was in place.

The SA Communist Party yesterday slammed the government for refusing recognition, charging the decision was confirmation of support by the administration of President De Klerk for Jonas Savimbi's rebel Unita movement.

"It is disgraceful that even after the Clinton administration has finally recognised the Angolan Government, the De Klerk regime should pretend that it is taking a balanced approach," said a statement by SACP head of international affairs, Mr Essop Pahad.

"This failure can only serve to encourage Savimbi's flouting of the election results and his return to war," Mr Pahad added. —Sapa.

Pamphlet on killing Whites investigated

Citizen Reporter

THE South African Police are investigating the distribution of pamphlets calling for the killing of Whites in certain parts of the country.

Attack

The pamphlets call on "domestic servants and garden boys" to attack and rape White women and kill the elderly and schoolchildren.

A spokesman for the police in Pretoria, Maj Ruben Bloomberg, said yesterday reports of the pamphlets distributed

had come from the Port Nolloth district and the far Northern Transvaal.

"It is obvious that the author of the pamphlet is attempting to incite racial conflict during a period in which emotions are already frayed."

According to Maj Bloomberg, police are also investigating the possibility that the pamphlets originate from White groups wanting to promote racial conflict.

He said the distribution of the pamphlets had come to the notice

of the police last year but no one had been arrested. The distribution of the pamphlets had stopped, but continued at the end of April this year.

Police urged the public to stay calm and not over-react to the threats. "This would tend to play into the hands of those responsible for the inflammatory and irresponsible document."

Police also called on anyone with information regarding the origin of the pamphlets to telephone them immediately.

Poll deadline: Negotiators must move

MULTI-PARTY negotiators have to make hard decisions this week if they are to meet next week's deadline for the setting of an election date.

The most important issues facing the 26-party negotiating council are regions, constitutional principles and the constitution-making process.

The council agreed at the beginning of May that if sufficient progress had been made by next Thursday's negotiating forum meeting, an election date would be set for not later than the end of April next year.

However, senior negotiators were divided yesterday whether sufficient progress could be made at three negotiating council meetings scheduled before next Thursday.

The first council meeting is today, the second

on Friday and the third on Tuesday next week.

Six of the seven technical committees set up to facilitate negotiations will present reports today.

The reports will deal with constitutional matters, violence, fundamental rights during the transition period, transitional executive council, independent electoral commission, and independent media commission and the independent telecommunications authority.

Confident

While the government and the African National Congress were yesterday still confident a date could be set next week, members of the Concerned South Africans Group (COSAG) believed otherwise.

"As far as the government is concerned it is attainable," Minister of Constitutional Development Roelf Meyer said after an all-day planning committee meeting at the World Trade Centre at Kempton Park yesterday.

Fellow planning committee member and ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa was also confident sufficient progress would be made by Friday.

Inkatha Freedom Party national chairman Dr Frank Mdlalose felt differently, though.

"I doubt it very much that it (the workload) can be completed before next week," he said.

Dr Mdlalose said an election date was not the most important thing on his mind, but rather the workload facing negotiators.

Another member of the

planning committee, Bophuthatswana negotiator Rowan Cronje, said he also doubted whether an election date could be set next week — "some issues need to be clarified".

"I don't believe it can be done by next Thursday," Ciskei negotiator and planning committee member Mr Mickey Webb said.

He accused the government and ANC of trying to "steamroll" an agreement through the negotiating council.

Mr Meyer said negotiators were not yet looking at detailed formulations and agreements. "We're looking at the basic things."

Progress

He added: "There's no chance that we can make any significant progress in any direction unless we have clarity on constitutional principles and the kind of process we're looking at. But we don't need more than a week to find agreement on that."

"Parties have taken their positions. Now it is the time to see whether we can bridge the differences."

A number of planning committee members agreed last night the issue of regions was the most critical facing the negotiating council, and that agreement on it would help resolve other constitutional issues.

The planning committee meets again this morning before the council meeting to discuss a number of recommendations it hopes to make to the council to assist negotiations. — Sapa.

SAP general is fired on in 'copter

By Rika van Graan

SKILFUL flying by a police helicopter pilot apparently saved the life of Lt-Gen Koos Calitz, Regional Commissioner of Police on the Witwatersrand, when gunmen opened fire on them from Mandela Park squatter camp yesterday afternoon.

One of the bullets missed the general by centimetres and damaged the fuselage.

The pilot, Capt McClay, who was described as very experienced, flew the damaged helicopter with fuel streaming down-

wards in such a way that it was not struck by more bullets.

The helicopter touched down safely at Rand Airport shortly after the attack.

Gen Calitz was on a surveillance trip over the strife-torn areas on the East Rand at about 1.45 pm when gunmen suddenly opened fire on the helicopter.

Earlier in the day he had visited and talked to policemen on duty in the area.

Police last night condemned the attack on the helicopter.

Spokesman Maj Eugene Opperman, said the attack was not only despicable but also irresponsible.

ANC president, Mr Nelson Mandela and COSATU general sec-

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General is fired on

FROM PAGE 1

retary, Mr Jay Naidoo and leaders of the Inkatha Freedom Party had travelled many times in marked and unmarked police helicopters. When firing shots at police helicopters, the gunmen might, in fact, kill their own leader.

Gen Calitz said the two factions were not only fighting each other, but police patrols were continuously under attack.

On several occasions during the day police had had to fire teargas, rubber bullets and sometimes even sharp ammunition to protect lives and property.

Police would take whatever steps are necessary to stop the fighting and attacks on police. "We cannot tolerate the current unlawfulness in the squatter camps," he said.

Capt McClay has handled the situation with

skill and had landed a nearly empty helicopter at Rand Airport superbly.

Only about 20 litres fuel were drained from the fuselage after landing.

It had not yet been established what type of firearm was used to shoot at the helicopter which flew about 250 ft above, Gen Calitz said.

"We will only establish that when we have retrieved the bullet from the fuselage.

POLITICS

Official ANC policy: vote from age 18

By Patrick Laurence

Official ANC policy was that the vote should be extended to all South Africans from the age of 18, Zola Skweyiya, head of the ANC's department of constitutional affairs, said yesterday.

He responded to an inquiry about ANC voting policy in the wake of Nelson Mandela's call for the voting age to be lowered to 14 by reading from the ANC's submission to the present multiparty talks.

"Persons entitled to vote: all South Africans citizens who have attained the age of 18 shall be eligible to vote for the electoral process."

On Mandela's call, Skweyiya referred to a recent seminar organised by church leaders: "In that seminar I think they came out with a statement that the youth have contributed to changes in South Africa and that they should be given a say in the changes taking place."

The call stunned the political establishment and even shocked senior ANC members. An ANC official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters yesterday: "It's an unlikely scenario."

But he conceded that "what Madiba (Mandela) says today

is often 'law tomorrow'".

Aleah Baquie, international press officer of the SA Council of Churches, confirmed that lowering the voting age had been discussed by religious leaders on May 10-12. But the qualifying age mooted was 18, not 14, he said.

● Allowing 14-year-olds to vote would introduce a new logistical complication to the pending election as they would not have identity documents, DP spokesman on Home Affairs Dene Smuts said in Cape Town yesterday, reports The Star's Political Staff.

She said the 14 to 18 age bracket included between one and two million people, and it was politically significant. These people would electorally come into play at a second election.

● Giving the vote to 14-year-olds would simply be to constitutionalise Cambodia's killing fields here, Tony Leon (DP Houghton) said in Parliament yesterday. He said he and his colleague Roger Burrows had been unable to trace a single country that allowed 14-year-olds to vote.

● The ANC Youth League expressed support for the call, reports Sapa. It said: "The reality of the South African situation is that we have youth from the age of 10 who are already politically conscious and mobilised."

Unrest toll rises to 30

By Sapa and
Lucia Poorter

THE toll on the East Rand, according to police figures last night, has reached 30 since violence erupted on Saturday, spokesman Captain Wikus Weber said.

At least 61 people have been injured.

He said police had found 11 of the bodies

since midnight on Sunday.

Capt Weber added that a man was injured in a hand-grenade blast in Khumalo Street, Katlehong, yesterday afternoon.

He was unable to confirm reports that 11 schoolchildren were injured when shot, were fired from a moving train between Kwaqale and Lindela stations,

and in fighting around Lethuthula Secondary School in Katlehong.

He said that reports stating a total of 48 people had died were unconfirmed and could have included ordinary crime incidents from the townships of Zonkiziswe and Vosloorus.

It had been reported earlier that police had recovered 19 bodies yesterday morning, and

police spokesman Maj Ida van Zweet said that six bodies, four of which were badly burnt, had been found in Mazimbela section township, where 15 houses had been set alight.

Maj Van Zweet said that gunshot, burning, back and stab wounds had caused the deaths. Thirty-six homes were

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Reef unrest toll rises to 30

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damaged by stone-throwing and shooting.

A strong contingent of police and SADF were called into the townships on Sunday night and further reinforcements were sent to Crossroads and Vosloorus as outbreaks of violence continued.

About 1 000 Zulu hostel dwellers marched from the hostels to the Crossroads squatter camp, at about 10 am. Lt Weber said hostel dwellers had gone back peacefully after visiting fellow Zulus in the squatter camp.

They were apparently watched by police in Hippo vehicles.

A resident from Mazimbela section, who witnessed the march,

told The Citizen that residents were fearing for their lives after hearing rumours that the marchers were planning to attack the section that evening.

Lt Weber said that one of the men killed whose house was burnt down in Katlehong was the caretaker of a high school, who lived on the property.

Another Katlehong resident was injured after a hand-grenade went off in Khumalo Street.

A further six bodies were found in burnt homes in the Crossroads squatter camp, where 20 houses had been set alight since Sunday night.

The body of a man who had been stabbed to death was found in Mazibuko Hostel in Tokoza.

Reports of a baby girl being stabbed to death were not confirmed by Lt Weber, who maintained contact with the SAP's operational room in Katlehong last night.

The ANC said last night that two ANC regional organisers, Mthetheleni Mncube and Wellington Nteyi, together with ANC marshal Judy Mobe Ndlele, narrowly escaped death when the car in which they were travelling was shot at by IFP members, who had set up a road-block in Katlehong.

"The organisers' car was stopped by the IFP members, who asked them who they were and where they came from. When they explained to them that they were ANC members monitoring the situation, the attackers opened fire on

them, injuring Mr Nteyi on his right hand and Ms Ndlele on her right leg".

"The attackers also took official employment cards of Mr Mncube. The ANC PWV region is concerned that these may be used in acts of violence against innocent people".

The ANC said that the situation remained tense in both townships and that exact figures of people who were killed and injured were not yet known.

• In the Vaal Triangle, two men, one of them a policeman stationed at Jan Smuts Airport, were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Zone 14, Sebokeng on Sunday morning. The two victims were identified as Nouna Molefe, 27, of Sharpeville and Const M S A Makhene.

Optimism, doubts on setting of poll date

By Esther Waugh
Political Correspondent

Decisions on several fundamental constitutional issues will have to be taken within the next seven days if an election date is to be set by next Tuesday.

Negotiators at yesterday's planning committee said decisions had to be taken on the constitutional principles which would shape a new constitution, the constitutional process and regionalism.

ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa and Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer were confident last night that an election date could be set at next week's first meeting of the negotiating forum.

Meyer said the Government would be "going full out (to set the date) without putting other parties under undue pressure".

But he said there was no chance of progress unless clarity was achieved about the constitutional principles and process. No more than a week was needed for this.

It was now necessary to see



Ramaphosa... confident about election date.

whether difference could be bridged, he said.

But Bophuthatswana government negotiator Rowan Cronje and IIP chairman Dr Frank Mdlalose expressed doubts that enough progress could be made this week for the election date to be set on Tuesday.

Cronje said the negotiators had not yet "faced up" to who would draft the constitution and whether regions would be determined before or after elections.

General's close shave as 'copter hit

Witwatersrand regional police commissioner Lieutenant-General Koos Calitz narrowly escaped death yesterday when groundfire hit his helicopter, forcing it to make an emergency landing at Rand Airport.

He was inspecting the violence on the East Rand.

A police source said a bullet hit the fuel tank and another narrowly missed the general as the helicopter flew over Mandela Park squatter camp next to Kaitleng.

"It was a miracle the fuel tank did not explode," said the source. — East Rand Bureau.

'Pupils fired on from train'

East Rand clashes claim 30 victims

VIOLENCE erupted in East Rand townships on Sunday night and yesterday, bringing the weekend death toll in the area to 30.

Thirteen people died in Saturday's clash in Thokoza between ANC marchers, hostel dwellers and police. The toll rose after armed mobs went on the rampage in Katlehong and Thokoza, shooting and stabbing township residents and setting alight and gutting at least 35 houses and shacks.

Police confirmed that the latest victims of the violence had been shot, stabbed or burnt to death.

Six burnt bodies were discovered in gutted shacks in the Mavimbela section of Katlehong yesterday morning. Two bodies with back and stab wounds were found nearby, while another three charred bodies were found in the Crossroads camp near Vosloorus. Other bodies were scattered around the two townships and adjacent squatter camps.

Thousands of rands in damage was caused to homes, buildings, vehicles and trains attacked yesterday.

Sapa reports that Katlehong resident and local Congress of SA Students (Cosas) spokesman Vusi Nkosi claimed 11 pupils were injured when shots were fired yesterday morning in the direction of two primary schools from a Germiston-bound train between Kwestini and Lincoln stations.

He alleged the attackers, in a crowd of more than 100, were wearing red head-

LLOYD COUTTS

bands and were armed with a variety of "traditional" weapons. He said the shots came from AK-47 rifles and handguns.

Police could not confirm the incident.

Regional Police Commissioner Lt-Gen Koos Calitz had a narrow escape while on a tour of the townships yesterday when gunmen opened fire on a police helicopter patrolling over Mandela Park squatter camp. Spokesman Maj Eugene Opperman said a bullet had narrowly missed Calitz and had damaged the helicopter's fuselage.

East Rand police spokesman Capt Wikus Weber said that by last night the situation appeared to be stabilising after SADF and police reinforcements were sent in.

The ANC's PWV region, however, said the situation remained tense.

"We believe the police and security forces have the capacity to stop the violence in both townships. We call on the international monitors to intervene in this crisis to avert a further bloodbath," an ANC statement said.

Police, reacting to the ANC blaming them for Saturday's violence in Thokoza, said last night: "No amount of blaming the SA Police for the killings in Thokoza can obscure the fact that the killings resulted from ill-considered mass action and from a failure to heed warnings by the SAP that the marchers should avoid provocative ac-

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Violence

tion by not marching past a known Inkatha stronghold. This was a massacre which could have been avoided had the warnings and the pleas of the SAP been heeded by both ANC and Inkatha supporters."

Calitz said "two factions" involved in the East Rand violence appeared to be fight-

ing not only each other but police as well.

He said police had come under fire continuously "from everywhere", and had been forced to counter armed attacks with teargas, rubber bullets and sharp ammunition to protect lives and property.

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Extending the vote to 14-year-olds would stall elections — experts

GIVING 14-year-olds the vote could delay SA's first nonracial elections by at least 18 months, political scientists said yesterday. They said that to extend the vote to the estimated 1.2 million 14- to 17-year-olds would create massive logistical and organisational problems, leading to delays.

They were responding to ANC president Nelson Mandela's proposal to lower the voting age to 14. While politicians heaped scorn on the proposal, the ANC Youth League endorsed it, saying the ANC feared militant youths would destabilise an election if they were excluded.

League spokesman Parks Masekela said youths could pose a "serious problem ... they could mobilise to undermine the election". But he conceded that the minimum age of candidates in the election would have to be higher than 14.

TIM COHEN reports from Cape Town that derision greeted Mandela's proposal when it emerged that no country in the world gave 14-year-olds the vote. Parliamentary officers asked the ANC to prove his statement that at least seven other countries had voting ages of less than 18 and the ANC sent back information derived

RAY HARTLEY
and GERALD REILLY

from the now outdated 1991 edition of World Factbook, produced by the Central Intelligence Agency. It cites, for example, 15-year-olds voting in Yugoslavia, but the country no longer exists.

DP education spokesman Roger Burrows said an analysis of 150 countries' electoral systems indicated that 19 countries had voting ages of 21, nine of 20, three of 19, 112 of 18, three of 17 and four of 16. This information was obtained from a 1993 inter-

parliamentary Union study.

In Africa, only one country has a voting age under 18 — the Seychelles, where the limit is 17 — and none set the limit at 21.

Burrows said: "The absurd suggestion that children of 14, whatever horrific or heroic experiences they have undergone, should be permitted to vote in SA's first attempt at democracy cannot be seriously considered."

NP executive director Olan van Zyl called Mandela's idea "ridiculous". Stellenbosch University political science department head Prof Hennie Roux said

the countries mentioned by Mandela were hardly shining examples of democracy.

Wits University political studies head Prof AJ Stadler said the population figures showed unemployed and school-going youth could "wag the political tail", their political clout could help to neutralise the votes of taxpayers and workers who had the maturity to make political decisions.

He also said it would be an impossible task to prepare voters' lists and issue identity documents to the huge number of teenagers by next April.

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'Political independence is crucial for police board'

CAPE TOWN — The Police Board had to be independent of the police, the Law and Order Minister and any political party, the board said yesterday.

"If the board is perceived as part of the police hierarchy or as an instrument of the Minister, it would not gain the confidence of all sections of the community," it said in its annual report, tabled in Parliament.

"The board needs to position itself between the public and the police in such a way that it retains the confidence of, and links with, the community as well as the police."

However, complete independence from Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel was not possible at this stage as the board was funded from his department's budget.

"What is crucial, however, is that the decision-making process of the board should be autonomous."

It also said that although the board was not required to report to the national peace committee, such a step could only benefit the board.

It had taken some time for the board to define its own role and operate as a cohesive group. "Suspensions and different backgrounds of individuals on the board" were

Political Staff

factors which caused the board to have a cautious and hesitant start, it said.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports Kriel told Parliament yesterday government was giving attention to offering financial aid to policemen whose homes were burned in arson attacks. It was not a question of whether government would give aid, but how.

If necessary, further steps would be taken to improve the personal safety of police officers. More than 60 members of the force had been killed already this year.

Bob Rogers (Walmer, DP) said unless all South Africans worked together to reduce the level of violence, free and fair elections next year would be impossible. It was time all political parties stopped playing political games by "continually accusing others of participation in violence while ignoring their own involvement". Specifically, there was the "generally accepted reaction" of blaming the security forces.

Police fired 2 466 members of the force last year as a result of criminal and fraudulent activities, Kriel said. A further 3 369 members resigned and 1 098 were retired because they were medically unfit.

COMMENT

Lost ground

WHETHER the killings at Thokoza on Saturday were a massacre, plain murder or, in some cases, the result of defensive action by people being attacked, the fact remains that the East Rand has again been swept by political violence. It has followed the familiar pattern of a march or demonstration degenerating into a clash between people of opposing viewpoints, followed by reprisal raids and wanton destruction, some of it by criminal thugs.

Both the ANC and Inkatha, whose supporters are usually the antagonists, want an independent inquiry into the causes of the violence, and as usual the police are lumbered with much of the blame.

There should be an inquiry, but what will the reaction be to its findings? If past experience is anything to go by, the commission will apportion blame, with some reference to extenuating circumstances, and some qualified criticism of the security forces, and nothing more will come of it. If the report is stronger than that, it will simply be rejected by the guilty.

All too rarely have the findings of a commission led to criminal prosecutions, or been taken to heart by the public representatives of the people involved. Why do they shirk their own responsibilities, and avoid taking a decisive role in attempting to bring the strife to an end?

There have been promising moves recently in the initiative by King Goodwill Zwelithini in calling

for a meeting between ANC leader Nelson Mandela and Inkatha president Mangosuthu Buthelezi. Mandela has responded positively, and spoken of the king in respectful terms. There is perceptible progress in national negotiations. And there have also been some successes at local level, where dispute resolution committees have defused potential flashpoints, and hostel residents have made peace with surrounding communities.

Now these encouraging developments have been undermined by the new explosion of violence, which might well have been avoided by a little foresight and sensitivity. The ANC, and all other parties, are entitled to freedom of political expression anywhere in the country. How can there be "no go" areas when the plan is to have "free and fair" elections less than a year from now? The absence of political freedoms in particular areas is lamentable. But that cannot justify risking — indeed sacrificing — people's lives when the circumstances cry out for caution. The march organisers were unwise, to say the least, not to heed the police's pleas that they change their route.

It is pointless berating people for killing each other, but by now we would have thought that ANC and Inkatha leaders would have given more meaning to the excellent work done in recent months by the local and regional peace committees. National interest aside, it is their followers who are dying.

The decline of Afrikanerdom's secret organisation is analysed by Patrick Laurence

Top Broeders are backing out

THE demise of the once powerful Afrikaner Broederbond seems imminent, following the resignation from the secret and elitist organisation of several top Broeders.

Those who have quit the Broederbond include Andreas van Wyk, rector-designate of the University of Stellenbosch and, critically, the man who was tipped to take over from the present Broederbond chairman, Pieter de Lange.

Van Wyk, having resisted mounting pressure from lecturers and students at the university to resign from the Broederbond, has finally surrendered.

His capitulation is contained in an unequivocal, if judiciously worded, statement: "I confirm that I have for some time begun to reduce my outside connections and I am at present not a member of any secret organisation."

Van Wyk's resignation — which occurred despite reported attempts by De Lange to stiffen the resolve of Broeders at Stellenbosch to retain their membership — must be seen in the context of another development: the announcement by three more Afrikaner luminaries that they had

quit the Broederbond.

The three are Wimpie de Klerk, professor at Rand Afrikaans University and brother of FW de Klerk (who himself is or was a Broeder); Hendrik Stoltz, former chairman of the influential Federation of Afrikaans Cultural Societies; and Pieter Potgieter, moderator of the NGK, the biggest and most powerful of the three Dutch Reformed Churches serving the Afrikaans community.

Their announcements, made during public hearings of nominees for the new SABC board, signal that membership of the Broederbond has become a liability in the new age of transparency, an encumbrance to be shed rather than an asset to be sought.

When top Broeders quit rather than face the opprobrium of belonging to a secret organisation with an invisible agenda, then — to quote Sakkie Louw, National Party MP and outspoken opponent of the Broederbond — "the writing is on the wall".

Louw is not alone in his prediction. It is reinforced by a headline in the Afrikaans daily newspaper *Beeld*: "Broederbond to disappear."

The Broederbond's survival cri-

sis raises two interrelated questions: why has it occurred and what does it signify?

The Broederbond's woes should not be seen in isolation. They are part of the wider trauma for Afrikaners and Afrikaner organisations associated with the end of Afrikaner political hegemony. The Broederbond's fate is mirrored in that of the National Party (NP).

Like the Broederbond, the NP is struggling to survive as a meaningful force. It is beset by enemies from within and without by Afrikaners who see its adaptations as capitulation; by black nationalists and white radicals who suspect that its reforms are a tactical retreat rather than a change of heart.

The foremost in Afrikanerdom has affected the Broederbond adversely: the formation of the Herstigte Nasionale Party in 1969 and the Conservative Party in 1982 saw the expulsion of their sympathisers from the Broederbond and the establishment of rival organisations, notably the Afrikaner Volkswag, headed, significantly, by a former Broederbond chairman, Carel Roshoff.

As Henrie Koze and Anneke Greyling, of Stellenbosch University, have noted, the Broederbond

has a symbiotic relationship with the NP. It has played an important role in promoting reform or "renewal" in the NP, particularly in the 1980s.

Looking back it is clear that the Broederbond was in advance of the NP in advocating reform in the 1980s.

● In 1986 it argued in a "working document" that a new constitution should be drawn up by all major political forces — including by implication the ANC — and that Afrikaner survival would not be threatened if a black man occupied the presidential office or if a majority of the Cabinet Ministers were black.

● In 1989 the Broederbond elaborated on its working document with specific constitutional proposals, which, observers noted at the time, were remarkably similar to those adopted by the NP in its five-year "action plan".

Since President de Klerk assumed office in September 1989, however, a reversal of roles has occurred: until then the Broederbond was the pace-setter, prodding and pushing the NP further down the road to reform; afterwards it was the NP that took the lead, forging ahead on its own.

Thus to illustrate the point: in 1990-91 when the NP took the — for it — bold decision of opening its membership to South Africans of all races, the Broederbond remained an exclusive organisation open only to selected white Afrikaner Protestant men.

Since November last year, as De Lange made clear in an interview with *The Star*, the Broederbond has begun to debate two critical questions: whether it should open its ranks — on a selective basis — to Afrikaners, irrespective of colour or gender; and whether — and, if so, to what extent — it should move away from its secret modus operandi.

But, as documents leaked to *Vrye Weekblad* show, Broeders have moved very cautiously on these questions, opting for minimal rather than radical change.

They have agreed to excise the word "white" from the clause relating to membership, meaning that "brown Afrikaners" can be admitted at the invitation of existing white Broeders, but they have voted to retain the shroud of secrecy over its membership list and its general activities (while agreeing to release selected documents for public scrutiny).

Judging from a memorandum

sent to members by its 18-strong executive committee, the Broederbond's moves are prompted in part by the awareness that it might be proscribed under a new political order. The memorandum talks of the need for "contingency planning" to meet possible future developments.

But the Broederbond is now in danger of being overtaken by events as members from its upper echelons scramble to quit the organisation before they are identified by political foes as members of an "Afrikaner Mafia" plotting in secret to retain their power in the new South Africa.

Unless the Broeders move quickly to make the Broederbond an open organisation pursuing legitimate cultural aims, they risk being remembered as the inheritors of the worst rather than the best elements of the Broederbond's past.

Short of a bold shift away from secrecy they will be seen as the successors of the men who proclaimed in a Broederbond circular 60 years ago: "Brothers, our solution for South Africa's ailments is not that one party or another shall obtain the whip hand but that the Afrikaner Broederbond shall govern South Africa." □

Juvenile

THE call by Nelson Mandela for the vote to be given to 14-year-olds is not helpful. It places on the agenda a controversial issue which can merely delay negotiations — and there are already enough other obstacles — without any real prospect of bearing positive results.

That this follows hot on the heels of a recommendation by church leaders that the voting age be dropped to 16 makes one wonder whether a sop to dissatisfied youngsters is becoming an overriding imperative in some quarters. Both Mandela and the churchmen, including representatives of the SA Council of Churches, hold that because children were dragged into the liberation struggle they now qualify for enfranchisement. That argument is not valid. If anything, children in the new South Africa need to be de-politicised.

If they are now to be drawn into the hurly-burly of elections — with intimidation and mass action on the cards — there is every chance that another generation will lose the fundamental right to be young, carefree — and reasonably educated. Commonsense seems to have deserted Mandela and the ANC on this one. Placating the youth with promises of the vote is avoiding the political challenge, not meeting it.

PAC support for Apla's farm murders

DIRK VAN EEDEN

THE killing of white farmers by Apla members was a "legitimate" political campaign and the PAC had no reason to distance itself from it, said PAC national organiser Maxwell Nmadzivanani yesterday.

"Apla is a disciplined organ of the PAC. All Apla members are also members of the PAC. We have no reason to distance ourselves from their actions."

Nmadzivanani emphasised that this was the official PAC policy.

He said farmers were committing political crimes against black people with the collaboration of the security forces.

"Millions of people were forced off their land. Farmers mistreat their labourers and deny them the right to affiliate to political organisations. Some cases are known of white farmers impounding black farmers' cattle. Therefore, Apla's struggle is a just struggle."

Meanwhile, tension in right-wing circles rose yesterday. Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said government had to realise the country was on the brink of civil war as Apla had declared war on farmers.

He said farmers felt their safety was thrown overboard in a bid to secure the success of negotiations.

"If government does not act now, we may be forced to take action ourselves and wipe out Apla bases. If necessary we must hunt one another."

Free State Agricultural Union president Piet Gouws said attacks led to farmers becoming "bitter and unreasonable".

Nmadzivanani said farmers were not killed on a random basis, but "only after investigation of the political crimes they committed".

Law and Order spokesman Capt Craig Kotze said yesterday: "Because of the tense political climate and because inflammatory statements can be so dangerous we will have to establish whether a case can be made of Nmadzivanani's statements."