

Maritzburg-type 'killing fields' fear grabs hold in Clermont

By S'BU MNCADI

A MEMBER OF the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly, Msinga Mbatha, was shot dead by an unknown gunman at his home in Ximba in the Camperdown area of Natal on Wednesday night.

Mbatha, 36, was shot at about 10pm, police said.

A number of AK47 cartridge cases and bullets were found on the scene, police added. They did not give further details.

The slaying of the KwaZulu government official comes among mounting fears in Clermont, a freehold township outside Pinetown, that it might be turned into Maritzburg-style killing field.

Since early last month the township has been plagued by a spate of killings of prominent community leaders by a faceless death squad.

This has raised tempers in the area, which is generally regarded as a UDF-/Cosatu stronghold, and which was the first place in the country where a community council endorsed the formation of street committees last year.

The weekend saw the fatal shooting of advisory board member Emmanuel "Qashana" Khuzwayo, 56, headmaster of the local S'thokozile Junior Secondary School.

According to members of Khuzwayo's family, two men entered the yard at about 7.30 on Sunday night, and one asked the people outside if he could see Khuzwayo because he wanted to place his child at S'thokozile school.

He was ushered into the house and the other man remained outside. While Khuzwayo was busy speaking on the phone, the man shot him in the head from behind, and when Khuzwayo turned, he was shot again. He died instantly.

When those outside tried to go his rescue, the man who had remained outside fired at them, sending them scattering. The assailants disappeared into the night.



Advisory board member Emmanuel Khuzwayo.

Last year, advisory board member and UDF supporter Zazi Khuzwayo was shot dead by two unknown gunmen in his office.

Last month, community worker and businesswoman, Pearl Tshabalala, wife of advocate and board member Vuka Tshabalala, was gunned down as she closed the family bottle store.

A week ago, community leader and businessman Obed Mthembu and his wife Zuziwe suffered serious bullet injuries when their Indunduma house was reduced to ruins during a gun and petrol bomb attack. Mthembu had slated the perpetrators when he addressed Tshabalala's funeral service.

In an apparent retaliatory action, the home of KwaZulu MP for Kwamaphumulo and Deputy-Speaker in the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly, Simon Mthimkhulu, was burnt down. His wife suffered serious injuries from burns.

UDF co-president Archie Gumede has been warned by anonymous callers that he is next on the "hit list".

The police are still investigating all the incidents.

Addressing a special advisory board meeting which was attended by three senior police officers and the Press, chairman Aubrey Nyembezi said as far as the board members could ascertain the cause of all these attacks was the community's stand against the incorporation of the township into KwaZulu as proposed by the Temple Commission in 1985.

Nyembezi said that at that time the community had realised that the advisory board and such statutory bodies were "toothless", but decided to field the present board members to try to block the incorporation.

Inkatha had also fielded its own candidates.

Nyembezi's R120 000 house was the first to be burned down during this dispute. He attributed this to the incorporation debate.

"For all these incidents none of the perpetrators have been found, yet they were known to the commu-

nity and the police as well", said Nyembezi.

He asked the police if the reason for this was not that the police investigators were themselves black people who lived in the community and were afraid to carry through investigations for fear of reprisals.

Nyembezi also expressed his disappointment at the fact that he had not had any progress report from the police since his house was burned down in 1985, although he himself had investigated the attack and discovered how it was plotted and who the people involved were.

All this information was at the disposal of the police, including those investigating the attack.

He said it was an open secret that a certain local man, with the help of outsiders, had compiled a "hit list" of people who were obstacles to incorporation of Clermont into KwaZulu.

The people now being attacked were revealed to be on the "hit list".

The plot was thrown into disarray when it was exposed by City Press after two disgruntled vigilante "generals" made a confession.

Meanwhile, Khuzwayo's funeral service will be held at the Clermont Lutheran Church at 10am tomorrow.

The Clermont community is holding a mass meeting on Sunday at the community hall to discuss the crisis situation.



MY WAY

Khulu Sibiya

Seeking a true South African man of peace

WHAT has happened to all the men we read about every day who claim to be committed to non-violence? Men who claim to abhor violence in whatever form. Why don't they come out NOW and do something about the situation in Maritzburg and its neighbouring areas?

In an area characterised by violence, repression, racism and wanton killings, one would have thought that by now, such men would have come out and put into practice what they preach.

Those men who

dreamed of winning the coveted Nobel Peace Prize one day have blown their chances. How can they be observers in the midst of evil and hope to be counted one day, when the history of this country is written?

I am not impressed by people who pontificate about the liberation struggle while they stand by and watch their own brothers being brutally killed because of an ideological difference.

We are tired of people who fly in and out of the country, addressing people all over the world about how committed

they are to bringing about the downfall of apartheid, when they cannot, in fact, solve issues right on their own doorsteps.

What is happening in Maritzburg and Durban today should shame all those who claim to be our leaders. What kind of leaders are these who leave Rome burning and go and dine with the high and mighty in plush homes and hotels?

Ellie Wiesel, Mother Teresa and many others who won the Nobel Peace Prize, did so because of their commitment to their people and

the world at large.

I am making a special plea to the KwaZulu Chief Minister, MG Buthelezi, and UDF co-president, Archie Gumede, or any other person, not necessarily in the Durban area, to show up their leadership qualities and stop the killings in that area.

It is not good enough to look to the police and the army to solve a problem of this nature. You, the leaders, should do the ground work. You are nearer the people than is the army.

Many reporters have tried to bring the message home by exposing what is really happening there. People like S'bu Mngadi of this paper and Joe Thlooe of the *Sowetan* have constantly been revealing the atrocities in that area. What more is expected from the scribes?

I don't want to believe that we have now reached a stage of a leadership vacuum. When the government has to deploy half-trained policemen in Natal – some of them, we are told are physically involved in the in-fighting between Inkatha and the UDF – let us brace ourselves for long and protracted violence in Maritzburg.

A letter that dropped on my desk this week perhaps summed it all up. The writer says he lives in Johannesburg but has relatives in Durban and Maritzburg. He says he never prayed to God in his life before, but ever since the killings in these areas, he always mumbles something to God before going to bed.

"I'm really not sure of what I say to God, but I always feel good after saying it. It is my relatives, my blood and flesh, that I'm worried about. Maybe I'm selfish by not thinking about others. I hope this mess comes to an end ..."

This man says he's an Inkatha member and lives at Jeppe Hostel. He was appealing to me, "as a Zulu and a new editor to do something". After showing a number of people this letter, I was urged to publish it.

What the writer, a Mr Zondi, missed, was that we do not need a Zulu to solve the problems in Natal, nor do we need any other ethnic group. What we really need is a leader who will bring sense to everybody. All the theory by so-called political experts from the universities on the real causes of conflict will not help us.

During the black-on-black violence in Soweto, some of us – we were later labelled the EPG group – did go out and speak to the leaders to stop this violence. Why can't it be done in Durban?

Can you imagine sitting in your home with your family and getting a telephone call saying you are next on the hit-list? That's what is happening in Durban and it's no joke. Lots of people have been killed this way.

I'm sure anybody who can bring peace and tranquility to the area will be a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.

nkatha members are among Maritzburg kitskonstabels

INK-KONSTABELS

CITY PRESS 6/3/88

By S'BU MNGADI

AMONG the 300 kitskonstabels deployed in the war-torn Maritzburg townships this week are Inkatha Youth Brigade members, one of whom is a respondent in a Supreme Court application against "warlords".

This was revealed during an investigation by *City Press* this week following claims by Maritzburg

residents that a large group of Inkatha youths were sent to Cape Town to be trained as special constables six weeks ago.

One such person is Weseni Awetha, the son of Imbali councillor and senior Inkatha member Abdul Awetha. Weseni was recently cited as the second respondent in an application for an interdict brought by two Imbali residents to prevent him, his father and two others from assaulting or killing them.

He may be called to give evidence in the Supreme Court when the matter comes up on October 31.

City Press learnt that Weseni, who had been implicated in several attacks on non-Inkatha residents, went to Cape Town on January 9 to train as a kitskonstabel and was now working in the townships. He and others were seen leaving the Alexandria Police Station, in Maritzburg.

At the time the local SA police denied knowing anything about the matter.

Local Inkatha central committee member and KwaZulu MP, Velaphi Mvelase said none of their members had left the city to train as kitskonstabels.

However, on Wednesday this week - the day after the kitskonstables were deployed - senior Inkatha official Ben Jele of Imbali complained to reporters that many of the special constables were restricted to their camp and were not allowed to go to home.

Addressing a Press briefing this week, Brig Leon Mellet, Press secretary to Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok, said the special constables would be armed with shotguns but would operate only with full-time members of the SA Police and under the command of a white warrant-officer.

Their role was to reinforce the SAP contingent in an attempt to end the violence which had plagued the area since last year.

Responding to allegations that the kitskonstabels were all Inkatha members from Maritzburg, Mellet said they had not been screened to ascertain their political affiliations. They, as policemen, "know that they cannot take sides".

Suspended rector Mkhize faces inquiry this week

CITY PRESS, 6/03/88

CE Correspondent

CONTROVERSIAL educationist Thulani "Rush" Mkhize has been suspended as rector of the Appelsbosch College of Education.

This is the most serious action against Thulani in his 10-year teaching career - which has been dogged by protest - and follows serious allegations levelled against him.

The KwaZulu Department of Education and Culture suspended him when schools opened in February and ordered an inquiry into the activities of the flamboyant teacher, which could lead to his dismissal.

In the past, the DEC simply moved Mkhize from controversial positions.

In a 12-page document handed to Mkhize by the DEC following a petition drawn up by his teaching staff, he faces 16 charges.

At least nine pages concern various types of misconduct. It is alleged, for instance, that he introduced a friend of his to the campus to deal with the



Thulani Mkhize

acquisition of text books. The man used school funds but failed to supply the books and has since disappeared.

Teachers also complained that in a bid to "buy" popularity with stu-

dents, Mkhize promoted many of them even when they had badly failed examinations.

The DEC has scheduled the inquiry for March 9 and 10 at the lawyers' boardroom at Salmon Grove Chambers Building, Durban.

This procedure is provided for in the KwaZulu Education Act of 1978, which stipulates that before the department can act against a person accused of transgressions, the person should be served with the charges and given a chance to defend himself.

Where the person denies the charges, a date for inquiry is decided by the department.

Mkhize, who holds a US doctorate, is making the rounds in Durban trying to forge new allies and looking for financial support for his defence.

Reliable sources say he has vowed to defend himself and to "expose" the DEC. He also promised to "reveal all" about his wife's relationship with a senior official in the department.

Mkhize's name has been in newspaper headlines in the past four years concerning his strained relationship with students and teachers alike at a number of schools where he has taught.

He was principal of Inhlakanipho High School, KwaMashu, in 1975. He was forced to leave following strong pupil protest because of their dissatisfaction with him.

The department moved him to the semi-rural Mtwalume High School on Natal's South Coast, but similar pupil protest forced him to move.

He was then promoted to be rector of the Umbumbulu College of Education, near Umlazi. Unpopularity with students and teachers which resulted in court cases forced him to be moved from there as well.

The department then seconded him to its curriculum planning division at Ulundi prior to posting him to the Appelsbosch College of Education - Concord.

Clermont's resistance to incorporation into KwaZulu sparks murders

CITY PRESS

6/03/88

ANOTHER KILLING

By S'BU MNGADI

WHAT started as Pretoria's commission to consolidate the KwaZulu homeland into one geographical unit in 1985 has sparked off bitter bloodshed at Clermont, outside Pinetown.

Yet another Clermont Advisory Board member and the only Inkatha member on the board, CBS Makhathini, was gunned down by two gunmen on Friday - bringing to two the number of CAB members killed in five days and at least the seventh prominent resident to be attacked in the last month.

In its representations against the incorporation of their town into KwaZulu, the Clermont Advisory Board predicted: "As a result of such a move towards incorporation, violence will start, and there will be no end to it."

Already the R120 000 house of CAB chairman Aubrey Nyembezi, who tabled before the Tempel Commission for Co-operation and Development into the consolidation of KwaZulu the community's vehement opposition following a debate on the issue, had been fire-bombed.

Eye-witnesses said Makhathini was approached by two men in his Clermont estate agency office who asked to speak to him. He went out with them and was shot several times. He died on the spot.

Police in Pretoria said the matter was being treated as unrest.

Two days before the killing, Makhathini had told a meeting attended by three senior police officers and the Press that a fellow-councillor had plotted against him.

Police officers present were Warrant Officer M Marais, Lieutenant P McEvilly and Warrant Officer LH Mabuya.

He had stunned the meeting when he interrupted the chairman and announced that a fellow-councillor had gone to Maritzburg that morning with assassins who were to eliminate him and another councillor, a Mr Blose.

Kitskonstabels were posted at Blose's Umngeni house a few hours after Makhathini's murder.

Makhathini was the only Inkatha candidate in the 200 000-community to win the 1985 elections whose theme was the proposed incorporation of the area into KwaZulu. Inkatha had fielded its own candidates in all eight wards.

Makhathini's killing exacerbated the community's fears after the fatal shooting of CAB member and schoolmaster Emmanuel "Qashana" Khuzwayo this week.

Street committees, incorporating defence committees - which were endorsed by the CAB in an unprecedented move - were formed as terrified residents took security measures to protect themselves.

According to the commission's memorandum on the incorporation proposals, KwaZulu is the national state with the largest number of detached areas.

This had its roots during the colonial period when Natal was cut up and divided between white and black.

It acknowledged, however, that consolidation was an impossible task.

It added that KwaZulu needed about 381 additional hectares of land.

In response, the CAB said: "The State President has, on more than one occasion, stated publicly that the government intends introducing common citizenship for everybody resident in this country.

"He has gone further and extended this offer to the present four independent homelands which were previously part of SA. KwaZulu is not taking part in this exercise and is not

giving evidence to the commission.

"They claim, as we do, that they belong to SA. If the government, therefore, is sincere in its statements about a common citizenship, the purpose of any talks of a possible incorporation into KwaZulu is not understood.

"To date Clermont has been comparatively quiet and stable. As a result of such a move towards incorporation, violence will start and there will be no end to it.

"The situation that exists at Lamontville will be like a children's picnic, having in mind the much larger number of residents, owners and tenants in Clermont.

"Hooligans will climb on

the bandwagon for their own ends and there will be a state of siege. The government may be obliged to permanently station soldiers there."

Meanwhile, security forces, backed by an SAP helicopter, kept a low profile yesterday as about 3 000 people converged on the Clermont Lutheran Church to pay their last respects to Khuzwayo.

The mourners were addressed by community leaders and speakers representing the Natal African Teachers' Union, the Clermont SRC and CAB, who vowed not to be intimidated by the carnage, but to fight to the bitter end.

The community is holding a mass meeting to discuss the crisis today at the local community hall.



Onlookers stand by as a panel van, believed to be an ambulance responsible for the rumoured kidnappings, goes up in flames. Pic: EVANS MBOWENI

B. Day 6/3/92

Child was killed in police attack on house, says ANC

A CHILD was killed yesterday morning when police fired on a house in the Vaal Triangle township of Sharpeville, the ANC has alleged.

ANC PWV spokesman Ronnie Mamoepe said the attack was part of a police campaign to eliminate ANC activists in the township.

Mamoepe said on Sunday ANC activist Montsoedi Molebatsi was shot by a policeman after he had been to his niece's birthday party. "Information reaching our office indicates that someone whom the police had attempted to recruit as an informer, was shown 15 photographs of ANC Sharpeville members. Molebatsi's photograph was among these."

He said a Sharpeville station commander told marching students and local ANC Women's League members on Tuesday police had declared war on Sharpeville residents. The marchers were demanding the arrest of Const Skuta Marumo, who allegedly shot Molebatsi, Mamoepe said.

Vaal Triangle police spokesman Capt Piet van Deventer could not be reached yesterday afternoon as he was in discussions with an ANC delegation about the Molebatsi shooting.

WILSON ZWANE

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that SA Institute of Race Relations head John Kane-Berman told a meeting in Johannesburg of the SA Institute of Management that violence could continue in the post-Codesa period if people and parties believed their voices were not being heard.

Kane-Berman said violence was central to the quest for political power and government, through years of repression and bannings, had taught its extra-parliamentary opposition that violence was the only strategy to which it responded.

Over the years this had included actions such as strikes and stayaways and the killing of black town councillors labelled as collaborators.

Warning that a culture of violence was developing, he said a recent survey by the institute showed one-third of the people in SA had been intimidated or had experienced coercion at some time in their lives.

"We have reached the point where the threat of violence and coercion has become an accepted strategy in certain circles."

B. Day 6/3/92

Co-option into Cabinet rejected

ANC support for appointed interim power

THE ANC says it supports Codesa's proposal for an appointed transitional executive structure to be established as the most powerful executive body in the country.

The proposal, agreed to in the Codesa working group dealing with interim arrangements, was recently referred back to participants' principals. The ANC's national working committee approved the plan on Wednesday. Government and the NP have also indicated they are likely to endorse it.

The transitional executive structure would be the supreme authority over Parliament, the Cabinet, the TBVC states and the self-governing homelands, ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa said.

However, at a media briefing he rejected government members' interpretation of the working group agreement as meaning that Codesa participants would be co-opted into the existing Cabinet.

On Wednesday Finance Minister Barend du Plessis and Deputy Constitutional Minister Tertius Delpoit hailed the agreement as a significant breakthrough and agreed there was a need for an interim executive to be appointed rather than elected.

Ramaphosa, who regarded the agreement as significant, said the ANC envisaged the body being appointed by Codesa and not by President F W de Klerk.

ANC national executive committee (NEC) member Joel Netshitenzhe said the ANC envisaged this body being established three months after Codesa finally ratified the agreement — hopefully, early next month. After another three months, the

TIM COHEN and
BILLY PADDOCK

ANC envisaged this body would be replaced following elections for an elected interim government.

Netshitenzhe said the ANC wanted the interim executive to have veto powers over legislation introduced in Parliament, as well the power to initiate legislation.

Another NEC member Mac Maharaj said that although the breakthrough was significant, it was contingent on the finer details being negotiated and agreed.

Codesa has also resolved most differences on principles to be enshrined in a new constitution. ANC negotiator Mohammed Valli Moosa said proposals on regionalism had been agreed and talks on minority rights were progressing well.

It appears the agreement reached on the transitional executive structure remains vague on several important points, including who will appoint the body. The agreement states that, at least initially, the executive structure would be appointed in accordance with procedures agreed upon by Codesa without defining what these are.

Ramaphosa said the ANC had not yet decided whether all remaining sanctions should be lifted when the appointed executive came into being or when an interim government was elected. It would be up to the "interim authority" to decide.

Asked whether the ANC's armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) would be disbanded once an interim government was established, Ramaphosa said the two issues were unrelated.