

COMMENT

THE UNHAPPY political implications besides, the somewhat large sums of money for the feast to inaugurate the Soweto Council have upset the more even-minded observers amongst us.

It could perhaps be argued by those directly involved that there is an obvious need to have these government instituted bodies officially recognised, at some official function. They could be excused that formality, but we, as well as most people, are against the ploy of an unwilling populace being dragged into "celebrations" that have no meaning for us.

Among other things the town councillors got into office literally by the skin of their teeth as most people stayed away from the elections. So who are they trying to fool by putting up such an expensive exercise?

Yet there is an even more serious caveat to the whole wasteful exercise. The townships by and large, are in a parlous financial state and the monies lashed out to celebrate the phantasma of a local authority could be put to much better use. Most townships are in the red as far as their budgets are concerned and we shudder to think how the present town council, after inheriting the waste from the previous administration, is going to make ends meet.

We are here specially thinking of that much vaunted electrification scheme which has cost township residents millions of rands. It was to our horror that we eventually heard that the huge electrification bill would have to be met by residents. And this after the deal had been made by the then community councillors and their leader.

We may be wrong but it seems that the electrification scheme, apart from being successfully completed is in a mess. We know of many homes that are with lights but whose residents do not even know that they are expected to pay bills for the lights they use so prodigally. Since somewhere at the end of last year, many township residents soon found they had lights in their homes. They have not paid a single bill for the electricity used.

Very soon the bills are going to roll in, that is after the Town Council has sorted out what must be a mounting administrative nightmare. When that happens there is going to be a great deal of unhappiness all-round. We know of families who will not be able to pay up to R100, let alone the soaring bills they are running now. If they will be penalised the Town Council must be aware that we warned of the impending mess.

It will then be unfair if not simply impossible to expect these residents to meet the bills in one go. It is surely not their fault that the administration of the townships is so lethargic. They will have to be met halfway.

Be that as it may, where, we would like to know, will the present councillors get the money from to run the townships? The last resort, which they are going to be forced to adopt will be to raise rent.

In the meantime people are feeling the hardships of having to buy houses and still pay a site-rent on them. The kind of money that is going to be wasted on the 15 or so oxen and all those curious actors at the inauguration feast, should be spent more usefully in this direction.

Senseless bombings

SIR — I am very perturbed about what is happening among ourselves.

I am referring to the bombings which are rocking the Soweto councillors' homes. I can see that in the past these community councils were just worthless and toothless. But now the councillors haven't been given a chance to prove themselves and already their homes are being bombed.

In my opinion our new mayor, Mr Tshabalala is heading in the right direction. Firstly, he uses his language. Secondly, he is not interested in using the mayoral house nor the car. Thirdly, he is reshuffling the present committee and lastly, he is planning to revert to

the old system of housing, namely the matchboxes (4-roomed houses which will be very much welcomed especially by people who do not have money to live in posh houses).

May I ask those irresponsible bombers: are they going to provide us with houses? Are they going to stop the demolition of shacks? If my memory serves me well, I think the Sofasonke Party was responsible for temporarily halting the demolishing of shacks, especially in Orlando East.

Those people who issued pamphlets to people, telling them not to vote, what have they done to improve our living? Why didn't they bomb that R150 000,00 house which was for-



TSHABALALA ... give him a chance.

mally occupied by Thebehali when he was still in power?

Will you please leave these people alone and stop acting like cowards.

EDWARD "SOWE-TAN" NTUTHU

Orlando East

Zulus hit back

SIR — I would like to express my utter dissatisfaction and disapproval of The SOWE-TAN because it's a very biased newspaper.

It looks as if Chief Gatsha Buthelezi is the only homeland leader in South Africa, but what about Phatudi, Mphephu, Matanzima, Mangope, etc?

What I would like to know, Mr Editor, is it because Buthelezi is the leader of the Zulus? Are the Zulus not blacks in South Africa like Venda (Mphephu), N Sotho (Phatudi), Xhosa (Matanzima) and Tswana (Mangope)?

Why should there always be scathing attacks on Chief Buthelezi? Should Buthelezi change his non-violence strategies because of your intimidation? Other homeland leaders

have gone from bad to worse but their coverage is small in The SOWE-TAN.

Have you declared war against the Zulus?

Buthelezi has not escaped criticism from both political extremes. To some he is called "sell-out." There is that hatred among blacks in South Africa because of their nationality. There are those that say: "I won't attack Xhosas because my friends are Xhosa, no matter how wrong they are".

Most of the people in the ANC ranks are Xhosas and that is why ANC has also declared a war against Zulus. Oliver Tambos' homeland leader is Matanzima and he never plotted any plan to plant a bomb to kill Matanzima because he belongs to his nation.

It will be very fair if everybody gets equal treatment from your newspaper.

JOSIAS MKHIPHENI SIBISI

Katlehong

Educate the Det hirelings

SIR — Please allow me room to express my opinion about Det.

There is a lot to be done at Det in the field of race relations. Det hirelings — especially in the lower ranks — need to be educated on how to deal with black people. They seem to think they are foremen on some farm.

As a teacher having a problem with my salary, I had to visit the Det head office. To my surprise a white security man at the entrance said to me: "Kan ons jou help jong?" While I was still arguing that I am not a "jong", a second short bespectacled man

appeared. I was later told he is the senior security officer.

He just said to me: "Jy moet mooi praat met die oubaas." In short, I should allow (die oubaas) to call me jong. Well I could not allow that and they refused me entry. From that experience, I felt that the Department of Education and Training needs a special training officer to avoid such incidents. You can't proclaim to be planning or improving someone educated while you are unable to respect him.

ABEL KONE

Atteridgeville

Thula drops another bombshell

Azapo hits at UDF on Juluka

AZAPO has condemned Mr Mosiuoa Lekota, the UDF's publicity secretary, said he did not doubt the genuineness of Azapo's reservations about groups that will be performing at the festival.

At a Press conference yesterday, Mr Saths Cooper, Azapo's vice-president, said that Juluka, a multiracial group that will be performing at the "People's Festival" on Sunday, defied the cultural boycott when it performed overseas last year.

"We fully acclaim the effort Azapo and other organisations have made here at home in enforcing the cultural boycott. But we in UDF understand the boycott to mean that no cultural ties must be maintained with foreign countries."

Students freed

SHOUTS of "Amandla" and clenched fists yesterday greeted 16 students of Ibhongo High School in Soweto when they were released from the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court cells.

ONE of Chief Gatsha Buthelezi's right-hand men, Mr Gibson Thula, dropped another bombshell yesterday when he announced his resignation from the Central Committee of Inkatha.

Mr Thula, regarded by many as one of the think tanks in the running of KwaZulu's Government, last week announced his resignation as urban representative of the KwaZulu Government because of his business commitments.

He confirmed yesterday that besides the Central Committee, he had also resigned as chairman of the Strategic Committee of Inkatha.

By SAM MABE

gies Committee of Inkatha. He said his resignation had been accepted by Chief Buthelezi,

Soweto Council names festival guests

president of Inkatha and Chief Minister of KwaZulu.

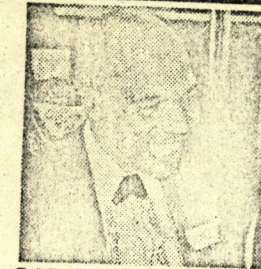
He added that he was going to remain a member of Inkatha and will "offer unqualified support to the movement and its organs."

KING Goodwill Zwelithini of Zululand, the Swaziland Foreign Affairs Minister, Prince Mfanasibili Dlamini and a Bophuthatswana Cabinet Minister, Mr Solomon Rathebe, will attend Soweto's controversial inaugural festivities this week.

Soweto councillor, Mr F N Manyosi said at a Press conference yesterday that there were certain matters he wished to correct about previous reports on the council festivities. He also indicated that the above dignitaries would be among those present.

He said other confirmations are awaited from homeland leaders such as Transkei's Kaiser Matanzima, Lennox Sebe of Ciskei and Patrick Mphahlele of Venda.

Mr Manyosi said the council will spend R45 000 on the celebrations which will be held at the Jabulani amphitheatre on March 2.



GIBSON THULA: Quits Central Committee.

BACK TO SCHOOL

MORE than 500 students at the trouble-torn D H Peta High School in Atteridgeville reported for classes yesterday morning.

The school was one of the four high schools which were closed by the Department of Education and Training during the recent student unrest in the area.

The three others, Hofmeyr, Saulsville and Saulridge were reopened last Wednesday.

The boycott ended after Bishop Desmond Tutu intervened. About 4 000 students from various high schools later resolved at a special meeting to end the boycott and return to classes. Large numbers of pupils were readmitted after they had signed a joint declaration with their parents undertaking not to interfere with the running of the schools.

RAND DAILY MAIL 28 FEB 1984

R - DAILY MAIL, 28 Feb 1984

UDF festival is 'bourgeois'

By ANTON HARBER
Political Reporter

THE Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) has criticised the United Democratic Front's planned "People's Festival", saying the choice of venue and musicians indicate a "bourgeois orientation" in the UDF.

Mr Muntu Myeza, Azapo's publicity secretary, said yesterday the UDF had announced the festival in a hired suite at the President Hotel "specially hired for wining and dining".

The "People's Festival", featuring Juluka and Hotline, is due to be held at Fun Valley this weekend to raise money for the UDF.

This venue was notorious for hosting sanctions-busting artists who come to South Africa in defiance of organisations like Azapo, the South African Council of Sport and other international organisations, he said.

Juluka had fallen into disfavour internationally and Hotline were "SABC darlings".

ANC 'must be peaceful'

MBABANE. — The African National Congress could stay in Mozambique only if it accepted the proposal of peaceful negotiations with South Africa, Mozambique's Foreign Minister, Mr Joaquim Chissano, said at the weekend.

He was speaking in Mbabane en route to the Organisation of African Unity budget session in Addis Ababa.

● The government-owned New Nigerian newspaper yesterday urged Mozambican President Samora Machel not to sign a security accord with South Africa and blamed black Africa for allowing the possibility to arise.

Mozambique had been pushed into a corner by South African military action and by a debilitating drought, said the editorial.

"The lesson of this ugly development is that if African countries had been more forthcoming with material support, Mozambique and other front-line states would probably not been put in as tight a spot as they have found themselves."

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(1) U.D.F.

(2) ~~A.M.C.~~

R4m set aside for Lesotho elections

MASERU. — The Lesotho Government has provided R4-million in its 1984/85 budget for the country's general elections, expected to be held later this year.

The Minister of Finance, Mr K T J Rakhethla, said in his budget speech in the National Assembly yesterday the present session of parliament would be the last before the elections.

He did not mention the date of the planned election or elaborate on how the R4-million would be spent, but it is expected to be used for a population census and delimitation of constituencies.

A budget of R314 600 000 was presented for the forthcoming financial year — an increase of R10-million or 3.3% over the 1983/4 budget.

Mr Rakhethla said a substantial increase in customs revenue was expected.

It had been estimated at R151-million in the new financial year compared with R109-million in the 1983/4 financial year.

This increase reflected the substantial growth in Lesotho's imports over recent years and the rapid growth in the customs revenue pool of the Southern African Customs Union area.

The Minister also announced an increase in sales tax from 5% to 6% and an increase in the liquor commission levy from 17½ to 22% with effect from April 1.

The new sales and liquor taxes should provide additional revenue of around R8-million in the next financial year.

He said these taxes would provide a substantial domestic revenue source and would help reduce Lesotho's present high dependence on customs revenue in the budget.

The Minister added he was also considering the application of a higher rate of sales tax on certain luxury goods such as motor vehicles and tobacco products.

On mineral exploration, he said the government intended to revive oil exploration and to continue with uranium exploration studies.

"To this end the Indian Government had assigned an uranium expert to Lesotho to review work done so far."

On diamond mining, Mr Rakhethla said the government planned to reopen the Letseng-la-Terae diamond mine in the Mokhotlong district which was formerly operated by De Beers but closed prematurely because of the uneconomic world diamond market.

He said the mine would operate on a small scale geared to employ about 100 Basotho initially. — Sapa.

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Gout. of Sisters

Le Grange warns SACC

CITIZEN 28 FEB 1984 on 'confrontation'

HOUSE of ASSEMBLY. — The government yesterday warned the South African Council of Churches that if it continued its "tendency towards confrontation," the State might be forced to act against it.

Introducing a special debate on the Eloff Commission report on the SACC, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange, said the Government had accepted the Commission's recommendation not to declare the Council an affected organisation.

"But I want to stress ... that the member churches of the SACC should take note that if the Council persists in its tendency towards confrontation, the state might feel forced to use counter-measures," said Mr Le Grange.

He warned the SACC and its General Secretary, Bishop Desmond Tutu, that neither was above the law.

Wicked

"I warn him (Bishop Tutu) and the SACC that ... I will not allow any wicked acts (onheilig-hede) to be committed under the cloak of religion.

"The member churches of the SACC must ask themselves in earnest if they want to be members of a political pressure group or if they truly want to be members of the Church of Christ."

Mr Le Grange said it should be clear to true Christians which road the

THE two options left open to the members of the South African Council of Churches after the Eloff Commission's report were to either replace the council's hierarchy with responsible people or entirely withdraw support for the organisation, Mr Pat Rogers (NRP, King William's Town) said.

Commending the Government's

investigation into the SACC, Mr Rogers said the council had 'teetered on the brink of revolution' and its hierarchy had 'hidden behind the sanctimonious cloak of religion.'

SACC member churches now had two courses open to them. They could replace the present hierarchy with responsible people to

continue the work of an organisation 'which was not created for a liberation process' or they could withdraw their support from the SACC unless it stopped its 'irreligious activities.'

Mr Rogers said the SACC had been one of the factors politicising the Church and that the report had opened the public's eyes to "one of the dangers cursing South Africa".

Two options left says NRP

'Association with communists'

THE South African Council of Churches had by implication associated itself with the SA Communist Party, Dr Boy Geldenhuys (NP Randfontein) said.

Speaking during a special debate on the report of the Eloff Commission on the council, he said there had been "enough evidence" of a "very close connection"

between the SACC and the African National Congress.

"Any body that associates itself with the aims of the ANC by implication also associates itself with the aims of the South African Communist Party," Dr Geldenhuys said.

The SACC should therefore be careful how it chose its company," he added. — Sapa.

SACC member churches should follow.

Crime

The Government had noted the Commission's recommendation with regard to the creation of a crime to be known as "economic sabotage" to be applicable to South Africans promoting foreign disinvestment, but had as yet taken no decision on the matter.

Mr Le Grange said he was intensively studying existing legislation in this regard.

The Government had accepted the recommendation that the SACC should be brought under the ambit of the Fund Raising Act, and the Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr Nak van der Merwe, would prepare

the necessary legislation.

Such legislation was necessary in the light of the SACC's history of mismanagement of funds, its tolerance of mishandling of large sums of money and its refusal to allow auditing of part of the Asingeni Fund or to bring about greater control of such funds.

"To date, control (of funds) has been insufficient," Mr Le Grange said.

He had noted the "challenging and derogatory" attitude adopted by Bishop Tutu on the Commission's report and the Bishop's rejection of the report on the grounds that a theologian was not represented on the Commission to give an insight into the biblical justification of the SACC's activi-

ties.

"This is nonsense because an honest person would not necessarily need a theological background to judge if his country was being threatened or if funds were being mismanaged or if people were lying to him," the Minister said.

Branded

Bishop Tutu had also branded the establishment and report of the Eloff Commission as "confrontation with the Church."

However, the SACC was not a church but a clerical body and neither the Council nor any "real church" was above the authority of the State, Mr Le Grange said.

The report had been well-considered and bal-

anced and the bibliography and list of witnesses confirmed the trouble the commission had taken to judge the relevant points fully and objectively.

The Minister said the appointment of the Eloff Commission had been timeous and had generally been welcomed, as had been borne out by the reaction of editors of newspapers such as the Rand Daily Mail and the Argus.

Mr Le Grange invited member churches of the SACC to talk with the Government.

"The Government's doors are open to any church that wants to talk with us and the member churches of the SACC are welcome to do so," he said.

PARLIAMENT

Reports by Sapa

PFP challenged on SACC

There was not a political party in Parliament whose principles or policies would not come into conflict with those of the SA council of churches, Mr Daan van der Merwe (CP. Risk) said yesterday.

In a special debate on the Eloff Commission's report on the SACC he challenged the Progressive Federal Party to tell the house at which stage it would, should it gain power, come into confrontation with

the individuals discussed in the report.

"It is quite clear from the report that there is not a party in the House whose programme of principles or policy will not, sooner or later, come into confrontation with those of the SACC and with the people we have read about in the report.

"We in South Africa must take note that these people have their fellow travellers and forerunners, particularly

among the Whites," he said.

These included people like Dr Wolfgang Kistler, Mrs Margaret Nash and Mr John Rees who, for "deviationary psychological reasons," associated with Black organisations, which had to be warned against such people.

Their strategy was to mislead ignorant people here and abroad, Mr van der Merwe said.

Mr L Wessels (NP Krugers-

dorp) said there was no doubt the commission's findings were damning to the SACC which was clearly on the road of revolutionary rather than evolutionary change.

"No state can allow its authority to be undermined by organisations that have limited local support and are funded from abroad."

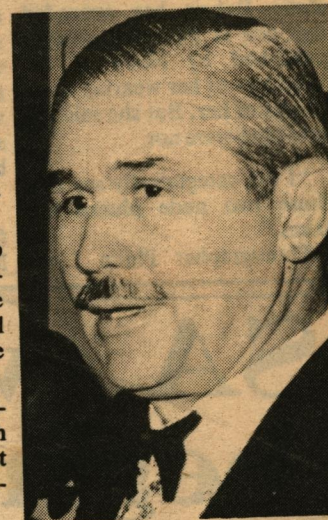
"Red lights flash when a spirit of resistance is encouraged," he said.

Only three percent of the

SACC's budget went to the poor, widows and orphans while 97 percent was earmarked for activism.

Its general secretary, Bishop Desmond Tutu, had repeatedly stated that he supported the goals of the African National Congress but did not approve of its methods.

In echoing the ANC's sentiments and associating with revolutionaries he gave at least moral support to the organisation.



Mr LOUIS LE GRANGE, Minister of Law and Order ...
"Neither the SACC or Bishop Tutu are above the law."

Govt NATAL WINE warns SACC 28 FEB 1984 of State 'action'

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"This is nonsense because an honest person would not necessarily need a theological background to judge if his country was being threatened or if funds were being mismanaged or if people were lying to him," the Minister said.

Bishop Tutu had also branded the establishment and report of the Eloff commission as "confrontation with the church".

However, the SACC was not a church but a clerical body and neither the council nor any "real church" was above the authority of the state, Mr le Grange said.

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• See Page 11

SACC's not your business, Govt told after Eloff probe

CAPE TOWN — The South African Council of Churches was essentially a private organisation and the Progressive Federal Party believed the Government had no business scrutinising the council's financial affairs, Mr Dave Dalling (PFP Sandton) said yesterday.

It could not be denied, he said in a special parliamentary debate on the report of the Eloff Commission's inquiry into the SACC, that the commission's appointment "was inspired by political motives".

In essence, Mr Dalling said, the SACC was a private organisation, dealing with private moneys, and could be compared with the SA Bureau of Racial Affairs or the SA Institute of Race Relations.

"We believe it was not the business of the Government to scrutinise the council's financial affairs.

"But this is not to say the council's financial administration was not in a mess... It most certainly was."

The courts had dealt adequately with the relevant contraventions and financial controls had improved considerably.

The Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, who introduced the debate, had said earlier these controls were still inadequate, but he would have to agree they had im-

proved, Mr Dalling said.

"It will not be denied the appointment of the commission was inspired by political motives and its very terms of reference illustrate this amply," he said.

A simmering hostility had existed between the Government and the council for a long time.

The council hierarchy believed the apartheid policy and its laws were evil and immoral and the Government was deeply suspicious of the council, believing it was meddling in affairs which were no concern of a church organisation.

The PFP would not have appointed the commission, but, for better or for worse, this had taken place.

Mr Dalling agreed with the criticism, rejected earlier by Mr le Grange as "nonsense", that not one member of the commission was drawn from any ecclesiastical discipline.

Referring to the commission's severe criticism of the council's provision of legal aid to those accused of politically inspired crimes, as well as their families and dependants, Mr Dalling said the funding of legal aid was a praiseworthy objective "in any circumstance".

The "non-co-operation" of the council with

the Government might be inconvenient, but this was not an offence. — Sapa.

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THE CITIZEN 28 FEB 1984

Boraine accused of encouraging defiance of State

THE Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, yesterday accused Dr Alex Boraine (PFP Pinelands) of encouraging people to defy the State.

He had done so by saying that church members such as Bishop Desmond Tutu, the general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, were entitled to place obedience to God above obedience to the laws of the State, Mr Le Grange said.

"The honourable member for Pinelands is encouraging people to defy

the State as long as they obey the laws of God," the Minister said in reply to a special debate on the report of the Eloff Commission of the SACC.

He asked whether Dr Boraine rejected the authority of the State as the highest power if it was a Christian state.

Dr Boraine interjected that South Africa was not a Christian state.

"Then you are telling people outside that they

do not have to obey the authority of the State because it is not a Christian State," Mr Le Grange said.

"You are encouraging people to adopt a challenging standpoint which can only lead to serious confrontation."

Earlier the PFP welcomed the announcement by Mr Le Grange, that the Government had decided not to declare the SACC an "affected orga-

nisation".

Speaking in the special debate, Dr Alex Boraine said the church had the right to involve itself in political, social and economic issues.

"However, if it dares to defy the State, then it should accept the consequences."

Bishop Tutu, Dr Boraine said, was not a revolutionary. If he was, why had he not been taken to court?

One of the main beliefs of the SACC was that people should be free and that freedom meant they should be citizens of the country of their birth.

Referring to the council's finances, Dr Boraine said it was common cause that the financial controls of the SACC had in recent years left a lot to be desired.

He agreed that it should be ascertained exactly who the donors of funds to the council were since they could influence the way in which the funds were spent.