HOMELANDS _ VENDA GENERAL

1989

Students start boycott

(113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Sowetan 18/11/89

OVER 300 student teachers in Venda started a class boycott yesterday to protest against a recent decision to turn them into part-time students.

The Director-General for Education, Mr S Makhuvha, confirmed the boycott yesterday and said he was waiting for a full briefing from the principal of the Ramaano Mbulaheni College.

The boycott was sparked by an announcement last week that all students would only attend classes for two weeks every month. The other two weeks would be spent doing practicals at various schools.

Students have rejected the changes, arguing that it was a perfect recipe for their failure.

"Some students are doing up to 13 subjects. People are failing to cope with the load of work as full-time candidates. How are they going to fare as privates?" one student argued.

Venda Govt challenged by 16 barred politicians

Sowetan 23/1/89

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Venda Government is this week expected to respond to an action brought by 16 ex-Opposition politicians who were barred from standing in last year's elections.

The 16 have filed papers in the homelands' Supreme Court in which they request the court to declare a special sitting of the national assembly held in September last year as null and unconstitutional.

The special sitting was called after the assembly was prorogued in preparation for the elections. It amended the homeland's Electoral Act and legalised the grounds on which the 16 politicians had been barred from contesting.

The decision of the sitting was backdated to cover the period which was being disputed by the 16.

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The papers were served on December 30 and the respondents, who include the President, the Minister of national assembly and the secretary of the assembly, have to respond within 30 days.

The 16 argue that in terms of the homelands' constitution, a special sitting of the assembly which is called after the assembly had been prorogued, can only discuss emergency matters. The amendment of the Electoral Act was not such an emergency, they argue.

Attorney for the applicants, Mr Mutshutshu Mamatho, said the respondents were expected to respond this week.

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Minister denies charge

A VENDA Cabinet Minister who raised a loan of over R100 000 from an agricultural corporation in November to buy cattle, later allegedly used the money to settle debts.

Deputy public service commission Minister Mr T T Ramabulana, has however denied the allegation and said the cattle were bought last year. He said the cattle were however sold last week through the Venda Livestock Board "because I want to repay the loan now".

Investigations by the *Sowetan* have however revealed that no cattle sale was held last Saturday as alleged by Mr Ramabulana. A cattle auction was held on Tuesday, but no indication could be found of whether Mr Ramabulana's cattle was amongst those sold.

Information at the disposal of the *Sowetan* is that Mr Ramabulana was facing liquidation over some of his

By MATHATHA TSEDU

many business concerns last year. The debt is said to be about R180 000. The liquidation would have automatically led to his dismissal from the Cabinet.

Investigations by the *Sowetan* have revealed that Mr Ramabulana was granted a R115 000 loan by Agriven on November 2 last year. The loan was approved by the chief executive officer of Agriven, Mr P Oosthuizen, without going through the management committee and the board committees as prescribed by Agriven's standing rules.

The loan was to buy 115 heifer cattle. The first repayment instalment was paid repayment instalment of R1 945 was paid by Mr Ramabulana on December 15 last year. It is alleged that Mr Ramabulana used the loan money to repay this loan.

Contacted for comment, Mr Ramabulana said there were people in the homeland who wanted to bring him down. "I bought the cattle last year and they are in Sibasa. In fact, after I heard the rumours that this matter was to be sent to newspapers, I decided to sell the cattle last Saturday at the Venda Livestock Board so that I can just repay this Agriven loan now," he said.

No sales

But a man in charge of cattle sales at the Livestock Board said no cattle sales were held on Saturday. He said a cattle auction was held on Tuesday. Asked whether Mr Ramabulana's cattle were sold on that day, the man said "I have nothing to do with Mr Ramabulana".

Mr Oosthuizen denied that Agriven was investigating how Mr Ramabulana had used the loan. "There is nothing wrong with the loan. We saw the cattle that he bought," he added. Reliable sources in the homeland's capital of ThohoyaNdou said the government's audit section had also been investigating the matter.

Mr Ramabulana, a close relative of the late Chief P R Mphephu, was appointed headman of Ha Mailula after the then headman, Mr S Mailula, was deposed for participating in opposition party politics.

A charge of shooting a 26-year-old man who became permanently crippled from the waist down, was withdrawn against Mr Ramabulana in 1979 when the Venda attorney general declined to prosecute.

He is the elder brother to Works and Communications Minister, Mr George Ramabulana, who made headlines in December last year when it was revealed that a committee appointed by the government to investigate unauthorised expenditure had recommended that he be disciplined for allegedly defrauding a local council of R400 000.

MR T T Ramabulana

cent.

written queries, so write to us and

Principals 'should join fight'

29/1/89

CP Correspondent

MDANTSANE principals should join the community in their fight against authorities' refusal to register certain pupils at local schools, according to the East London Progressive Teachers' Union.

"The excuses and restriction forwarded by the authorities to the effect that pupils who did not ap- [illegible] back, tha[illegible] fared badly during the year should not be re-admitted at the same school, and the bad practice of turning pupils back beeause they happen to fall into the 'wrong' age group, cannot solve these problems," the union said in a statement.

"The solution lies in the building of more schools and libraries which could absorb the number of pupils and new teachers."

The union said about 4 000 students had passed standard five, yet according to "instructions" only 1 000 could be accommodated for standard six in Mdantsane's 10 post-primary schools.

The union called on school principals to "stop proclaiming their innocence that they are caught between directives from above to the effect that they should not admit pupils, and the pressure brought to bear upon them by pupils' parents".

"The correct step is that principals should stand up, take sides with the community and fight this glaring injustice." – Elnews

Pupils end Venda school boycott

By SAMKELO KUMALO

SCHOOL attendance at all schools in Venda has returned to normal after last year's boycott by pupils.

Last year a number of pupils in the homeland decided to take to the streets in protest against mysterious ritual murders allegedly perpetrated by people in government circles.

A few weeks later, the homeland was brought to a standstill when workers downed tools and demanded the dismissal of a senior Cabinet minister.

Things began to return to normal a few days later, but pupils at Tshimuemu High School in Tshakhuma, where another alleged ritual killer taught, decided not to go back to school until the alleged perpetrators were apprehended and a public commission of inquiry was held.

A number of pupils did not write their examinations, and some were detained. All the detained students have been released and have gone back to school, according to a source in Venda.

Except for some principals who manned deserted schools, most teachers were transferred to other areas in Venda.

29/1/89 Cape Times (113)

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29/1/89 (113) Cape Times

DASH FROM JAIL

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Sowetan 1/2/89

Alleged ANC guerillas still at large

By MATHATHA TSEDU

TWO alleged African National Congress guerillas who were standing trial in Venda for murder and terrorism escaped from prison on Saturday and are still at large.

The two, Mr Wellington Mabasa (23), of KwaMashu, Durban, and Mr James Segala of Rustenburg, escaped with another man who is facing terrorism charges.

The man, Mr Peter Ravhambelani, has since been recaptured, according to highly reliable information.

Details about the daring daylight escape from the homeland's only maximum prison, were not available yesterday. Security police, chief Major General Gerson Tshamano Ramabulana, referred inquiries to the Commissioner of the Prison Service.

A telex sent to the commissioner early yesterday had not been responded to at the time of going to Press.

SASOL DEATH TOLL RISES

See Page 2

REPORTS, pictures and comment in this edition may be censored in terms of the Government's state of emergency.

Dash from jail

Sowetan 1/2/89

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• From page 1

Mr Mabaso and Mr Segala were to have appeared in the Venda Supreme Court yesterday on charges of murder, terrorism, possession of weapons and ammunition and various other offences.

They were captured in March last year following what an SADF statement at the time called a fierce "fire fight" between seven guerillas and a combined force of the SADF and the Venda Defence Force backed by airpower. At least two soldiers are known to have died during the skirmish and the murder charge relates to that.

Alleged ANC men escape before trial

B/Day 11/4/89 (113)

PIETERSBURG — Two alleged members of the ANC made a daring escape from the Venda Central Prison at 2pm on Saturday, the Commissioner of the Venda Prison Services confirmed yesterday.

They are Wellington Mabaso, 23, of Kwamashu of Durban and James Sekgale of Rustenburg. A third man, Peter Ravhambelani, was rearrested the same day.

Mabaso and Sekgale were captured last March after being injured in a skirmish with the joint forces of the SA and Venda Defence forces at Nuanetsi. They were charged with murder, terrorism, and possesion of arms among other related charges.

They were to have appeared yesterday in the Venda Supreme Court.

Ravhambelani and five other men — two of them also alleged to be ANC members — are facing charges of terrorism. He is charged with assisting and harbouring guerillas.

The prison statement said a "high level investigation is in process regarding the circumstances of the escape". — Sapa.

ARM

Two alleged ANC men escape from prison

Star 1/2/89

(113)

By Craig Kotze,
Crime Reporter

Three alleged African National Congress members held on charges of murder and terrorism escaped from Venda's maximum security Central Prison at the weekend, the Venda Prisons Service confirmed today.

One of the men was recaptured the same day, but the other two are at large.

The two still free are Mr Wellington Mabaso (23) of kwaMashu, Durban, and Mr James Sekgale of Rustenburg.

Mr Peter Ravhambelani was recaptured after the daylight escape on Saturday, said a statement issued by the Venda Prisons Commissioner.

Mr Mabaso and Mr Sekgale were caught in March last year after they were wounded in a firefight with security forces from South Africa and Venda at Nuanetsi.

They face charges of murder, terrorism, possession of arms and other related charges and were to have appeared in the Venda Supreme Court today.

Mr Ravhambelani and five other men — two alleged ANC members — face charges of terrorism. Mr Ravhambelani is charged with assisting and harbouring insurgents.

The escape took place at 2 pm on Saturday but no further details were released.

The Venda Central Prison is situated at Matatshe, about 100 km from the border.

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ANC 3 cut their way to freedom

Sowetan 3/2/89

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By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE three alleged African National Congress guerillas who escaped from Venda maximum security prison at the weekend made their getaway by cutting through a reinforced steel net over the cell courtyard.

This was confirmed by the commissioner of the Venda prison, Brigadier T T Nditwani in a statement released yesterday. Brigadier Nditwani said the three men had also jumped a high wall — said by prisoners to be over 6m tall.

The three, Mr Wellington Mabaso (23) of KwaMashu, Durban, Mr James Segale of Rustenburg and Mr Peter Ravhambelani of Venda, fled on Saturday afternoon in a daring daylight escape that has embarrassed the Venda Prison Department.

Arrest

Mr Ravhembelani was rearrested the same day while the other two were still at large yesterday — six days after the escape.

The statement by Brigadier Nditwani did not indicate how the awaiting trial prisoners — housed in a high security area — had come by the hacksaw used to cut their way to freedom. Further inquiries in this regard were referred to the police.

Venda police commissioner, Lt-General T R Mulaudzi, yesterday said a statement on police investigation of the escapees would be issued later.

Star 13/2/89

R10-m loan for Venda

The Development Bank of Southern Africa has approved a second Small Business Development programme amounting to R10 million for implementation by the Venda Development Corporation.

This follows the successful implementation and completion of the first Venda Small Business Development programme of R3,7 million, which was also financed by the Development Bank.

It is envisaged that during the implementation of this programme, about 176 small business undertakings will be estblished in the retail, small industrial and service sectors, which will create employment for 614 people.

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During the same period, formal technical training will be offered to 210 people employed in the small industrial, service and construction sectors, while 22 one-day training courses will be given in retail management for which 50 business managers per course are expected to attend. — Sapa.

Venda to get R1-m system

Venda Agricultural Corporation is to install a R1 million agricultural system from turnkey systems suppliers Distributed Data Systems (DDS) and consultants Coopers & Lybrand, who developed the software.

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The corporation's financial manager, Mr Denzil Anderson, says: "The system should be running the first five of 20 projects by April and will give us figures on a daily basis and enable us to manage our operations better."

The corporation manages farming projects of its own as well as acting as a land bank for 14 000 Venda farmers.

It also runs a conservation service and advises farmers how to improve their methods and profitability.

Major benefits of the system will be to make budgeting easier and to supply extension officers with technical information that will help them advise farmers on their planting and fertiliser strategy, as well as pin-pointing problem areas. Star 16/2/89

Initially, three PCs will be installed at rural co-operatives to manage projects in the areas.

Tape drives will be installed to enable data to be physically delivered to the head office at Thohoyandou for integrating with the 64-terminal central system on an Adds Mentor mini-computer, which runs the Pick operating system.

The PCs will be linked to the central system over the telephone network when automatic exchanges are installed in Venda.

Some time in the future, the corporation hopes to include systems for marketing produce, cattle feed lots and a dairy system.

Inquest into Mphephu's death

Sowetan 23/2/89

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SOWETAN Correspondent

AN inquest into the controversial death of former Venda President Patrick Ramaano Mphephu last year was ordered on Tuesday by Justice Minister Mr Kobie Coetsee, following rumours he was poisoned.

He announced in Cape Town that regional magistrate, Mr Waj van Zyl of Pretoria had been appointed "for practical reasons" to conduct the inquest in Louis Trichardt.

Justice sources said the inquest would be held in South Africa and not in Venda, because Mr Mphephu had died in a Pretoria hospital.

Mr Mphephu (73) died in mysterious circumstances in the Little Company of Mary Hospital, Pretoria in April last year.

The South African Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed then that he died of "multiple-organ failure."

Inquest into Venda leader's death ordered

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By Peter Fabricius, Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — An inquest into the controversial death last year of the former Venda president, Mr Patrick Ramaano Mphephu, was ordered yesterday by Justice Minister Mr Kobie Coetsee. Star 23/2/89

He announced that a regional magistrate had been appointed to conduct the inquest in Louis Trichardt.

Mr Mphephu (73) died in the Little Company of Mary Hospital, Pretoria, last April after being flown by helicopter from the Venda capital, Thohoyandou.

of (a) loans or (b) grants; if so, (i) how many, and (ii) what was the amount of the loan or grant, in each case;

(3) whether any further (a) loans or (b) grants are envisaged in the 1989/90 financial year; if so, what loans or grants?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) An estimated amount of R1 067 901 333.

(b) The estimated amounts which will be paid to Bophuthatswana during the 1988/89 financial year fall into two main categories, mainly:

A. DIRECT ASSISTANCE

(i) An amount for budgetary assistance under Programme 3: Foreign Aid and Development Co-operation of Vote 7: Foreign Affairs R447 223 000.

(ii) Technical assistance

South Africa is from time to time approached by other governments with requests for assistance in one way or another. Assistance may take the form of expert advice, visits, evaluation of projects, bursaries etc. Each such application is considered on its merits. During the 1988/89 financial year the RSA will spend an estimated amount of R942 000 in this regard on Bophuthatswana.

(iii) Loan Fund

Like any other friendly country Bophuthatswana may apply for the financing of certain projects within the framework of the Economic Co-operation Promotion Loan Fund. Such applications are considered strictly on merit according to fixed criteria and within the limits of available funds. This type of financing consists mainly of loans which are repayable. During the 1988/89 financial year an estimated amount of R22 537 000 will be paid to Bophuthatswana.

(iv) Incentive scheme for Industries

In accordance with existing jointly agreed arrangements between the SATBVC States, the RSA is obliged to refund the TBVC States on a rand-for-rand basis for actual expenditure incurred in these states in terms of the industrial incentive scheme, which took effect on 1 April 1982. The RSA estimates to refund Bophuthatswana to the amount of R13 000 000 in this regard during the 1988/89 financial year.

B. TRANSFERS IN TERMS OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Transfer payments which are regarded as own sources of income of the Bophuthatswana Government:

(i) Income tax; An estimated amount of R59 414 000 will be transferred.

(ii) An estimated amount of R516 028 000 will be paid in respect of Bophuthatswana's share in the Customs Union Revenue Pool.

(iii) Common Monetary Area: An estimated amount of R8 757 333 will be transferred.

(2) (a) No. Loans in terms of project aid agreements are included in the amount mentioned under (1)(a).

(i) and (ii) fall away.

(b) Yes.

(i) One.

(ii) Transfers in respect of the action programme: Creation of Job Opportunities are estimated at R8 000 000.

(3) (a) Yes. Loans are granted on a continuous basis within the framework of the Economic Co-operation Promotion Loan Fund as set out in (1)(b)(iii).

(b) Yes. The same type of grant which was made during the 1988/89 financial year.

Venda: amount paid in terms of agreements 113

78. Mr R A F SWART asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) (a) What total amount was paid by South Africa to Venda in the 1988/89 financial year in terms of agreements between the

two countries and (b) how was this amount made up;

(2) whether any additional amounts have been paid to Venda in the form of (a) loans or (b) grants; if so, (i) how many, and (ii) what was the amount of the loan or grant, in each case;

(3) whether any further (a) loans or (b) grants are envisaged in the 1989/90 financial year; if so, what loans or grants?

B180E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) An estimated amount of R352 934 666.

(b) The estimated amounts which will be paid to Venda during the 1988/89 financial year fall into two main categories, namely:

A. DIRECT ASSISTANCE

(i) An estimated amount for budgetary assistance under Programme 3: Foreign Aid and Development Co-operation of Vote 7: Foreign Affairs R228 571 000.

(ii) Technical assistance

South Africa is from time to time approached by other governments with requests for assistance in one way or another. Assistance may take the form of expert advice, visits, evaluation of projects, bursaries etc. Each such application is considered on its merits. During the 1988/89 financial year the RSA will spend an estimated amount of R665 000 in this regard on Venda.

(iii) Loan Fund

Like any other friendly country Venda may apply for the financing of certain projects within the framework of the Economic Co-operation Promotion Loan Fund. Such applications are considered strictly on merit according to fixed criteria and within the limits of available funds. This type of financing consists mainly of loans which are repayable. During the 1988/89 financial year an estimated amount of R19 025 000 will be paid to Venda.

(iv) Incentive scheme for Industries

In accordance with existing jointly agreed arrangements between the SATBVC States, the RSA is obliged to refund the TBVC States on a rand-for-rand basis for actual expenditure incurred in these states in terms of the industrial incentive scheme, which took effect on 1 April 1982. The RSA estimates to refund Venda to the amount of R5 000 000 in this regard during the 1988/89 financial year.

B. TRANSFERS IN TERMS OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Transfer payments which are regarded as own sources of income of the Venda Government:

(i) Income tax; An estimated amount of R10 322 000 will be transferred.

(ii) An estimated amount of R86 653 000 will be paid in respect of Venda's share in the Customs Union Revenue Pool.

(iii) Common Monetary Area: An estimated amount of R2 698 666 will be transferred.

(2) (a) No. Loans in terms of project aid agreements are included in the amount mentioned under (1)(a).

(i) and (ii) fall away.

(b) Yes.

(i) One.

(ii) Transfers in respect of the action programme: Creation of Job Opportunities are estimated at R3 000 000.

(3) (a) Yes. Loans are granted on a continuous basis within the framework of the Economic Co-operation Promotion Loan Fund as set out in (1)(b)(iii).

(b) Yes. The same type of grant which was made during the 1988/89 financial year.

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I have already said that the power for the completion and carrying out of functions has been transferred to the Administrator concerned. If the hon member wishes to make representations, he is very welcome to make them directly to the Administrator. He is free to do so. [Interjections.]

SATS: manufacturing of motor vehicle

10. Mr J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:†

Whether the South African Transport Services are currently engaged in the manufacturing of a South African motor vehicle; if so, (a) what was the development cost of this project as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) to what extent do the Transport Services intend to enter the motor vehicle manufacturing market in South Africa?

B250E

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

No.

(a) and (b) Fall away.

Venda: purchasing of house in Pietersburg

11. Dr W J SNYMAN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

(1) Whether his Department has approved that a house in a residential area of Pietersburg be purchased by the Government of Venda with a view to provide accommodation for consular staff of that state; if so, which residential unit has been purchased for this purpose;

(2) whether any further purchases are envisaged in this regard; if so, what are the relevant particulars?

B251E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Reply laid upon the Table with leave of House):

(1) and (2) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply which I provided to:

(a) his question no 28 of 4 March 1983.

(b) his question (interpellation) no 1 of 28 February 1989.

From this it is clear that the Government of Venda has for six years sought the establishment of a Consulate in Pietersburg. Transkei has Consulates in Bloemfontein, Durban, Johannesburg, Cape Town, East London and Port Elizabeth. Bophuthatswana has Consulates in Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, Potchefstroom, Vryburg and Welkom. Ciskei has Consulates in Bloemfontein, Durban, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Newcastle and Port Elizabeth. Venda has only two Consulates: Johannesburg and Pietersburg. These are the two urban areas where the greatest need for Consular services exists for Venda.

I remind the Honourable Member again of Dr D F Malan's words in the House of Assembly on 21 June 1951 when he piloted the Diplomatic Privileges Act through the Assembly:

"Further there is also a provision here to grant exemption to diplomatic representatives in respect of their places of residence. If, for instance, representatives of a racial group were to come here, that is, representatives of a country represented by a particular racial group here, like, for instance the Indians in this country, then such a diplomatic representative would not be obliged to live in the area of that particular racial group but he would be at liberty to reside where he pleases, anywhere in this country. He is exempted from that restriction placed on that particular race." (Hansard col 10253, 21 June 1951 Part 76).

Prime Minister B J Vorster, said the following at a public occasion on 9 September 1969:

"There is no such thing as a first-class and second class diplomat. There is just one kind of diplomat. There is no such code, no such thing as a code for white diplomats and a code for non-white diplomats. I shall mislead you if I say anything else."

The Diplomatic Privileges Act does not require that the approval of a local authority or any specific government body be obtained for acquiring accommodation for diplomatic or consular representatives. In spite of this the Department for reasons of courtesy approached the local magistrate and the police in 1983 for comments. The Honourable Member was also approached for comments in 1983. This

token of courtesy was answered by the Honourable Member in a tone which has nowhere yet been experienced in the Republic of South Africa.

From my side I requested our previous Ambassador in Venda personally to endeavour to handle the question of the establishment of a Consulate in Pietersburg in such a way that the matter would not offend the Government of Venda. It would amount to the grossest infringement of international rules and custom to refuse accommodation for its Consular officers to a Government which has diplomatic relations with South Africa — especially for the reasons which the Honourable Member has in mind.

I must also mention that the Venda Government discussed the question of accommodation for officials of the Consulate with the Municipality of Pietersburg several months ago without obtaining an acceptable solution. Meanwhile the personnel had to be accommodated in a hotel which cost the Venda Government thousands of Rand. The Chief of Protocol of the Department travelled to Pietersburg personally on 17 November 1988 to discuss the matter around a table with the representatives of the Venda Government, the Town Clerk of Pietersburg and the Chairman of the Management Committee. The Department therefore from its side, without having a legal obligation, did everything in its power to have the matter handled in such a way that unpleasant reactions could be avoided.

I regard it as my duty by a way of an appeal to the Honourable Member, to repeat what I told him in 1983:

"South Africa is engaged in an ever-intensifying struggle against enemies throughout the entire world who seek her isolation and destruction. It is simply beyond comprehension that people are found in South Africa who play into the hands of our enemies to such a degree that they do not even want to allow friendly relations with anti-communist countries, because logically speaking one cannot say you want to have diplomatic relations with a country and then refuse to accept that country's representatives on account of the colour of their skin. Such a refusal not only amounts to a slap in the face of that country but is indeed contrary to the spirit of the Diplomatic Privileges Act of 1951.

But there is a further element of the Honourable member's question which needs to be addressed and which relates to the interests of the region. Pietersburg together with other towns in the region has been identified as important industrial development points in the new co-ordinated regional development plan for Southern Africa which together with Venda and parts of Lebowa and Gazankulu forms an important region where incentives are provided for the establishment of new industries. This region certainly has promising development possibilities and it is of great important that responsible authorities in this region bear in mind what the reaction of prospective investors and industrialists will be if the impression is created that certain quarters care nothing for good neighbourliness and good relations amongst the peoples.

Consular and other representatives of states which became independent from within our midst are today stationed in several of our towns and cities across the whole country and in all four provinces where they not only take care of the interests of their citizens but co-operate constructively with the local authorities of the RSA. It does happen at times that awkward situations occur but so far we have succeeded with the necessary circumspection and mutual respect to deal with such situations to the satisfaction of our own people and the governments of the other countries. The governments of these countries display an understanding for the sensitivity of questions such as housing and schooling and would like to avoid harmful reactions but then it is expected of us not to behave in an offensive manner towards them. I appeal to honourable members of this House not to try and make political gain out of situations which, if handled with circumspection, need not present any real problems."

Aids rife in Venda - report

Sowetan 20/7/89

(113)

SHOCK greeted the announcement last Friday that "several" people had been diagnosed as Aids sufferers in Venda.

The announcement was made by Venda President Headman F N Ravele, in a speech during the official opening of the territory's Legislative Assembly.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Mr Ravele said: "The Department of Health remains very concerned about Aids which is spreading rapidly in Southern Africa and which has been diagnosed in several Venda patients."

Alarm

He said that the homeland could have 20 000 Aids patients by the year 2000 if the spread of the killer disease was not halted by changes in behaviour.

Several people spoke to *Sowetan* after the speech and expressed alarm that the existence of the disease in the area had not been disclosed before. Most of the people wanted to know the regions where the patients come from and where those patients were now."

"We were told that there was no Aids here. Now they just tell us that several people have been diagnosed as Aids carriers. This is causing a lot of confusion and panic. They must tell us more," one woman said.

Report reveals state theft in Venda

Cape Times 23/3/89

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THOHOYANDOU. — Rampant theft and general irregularities in almost all state departments of Venda have been uncovered by a sessional committee of the Venda National Assembly.

In a report tabled yesterday in the assembly, the committee recommended that the Minister of Public Works, Posts and Transport, Mr George Ramabulana, and the rector of the University of Venda, Prof P W du Plessis, be made to repay R400 000 which was taken from the Mphephu local council to buy a farm near Louis Trichardt.

The committee said that although the farm was bought by the council it did not belong to it, but to a corporation known as Amsa owned by the two men.

It recommended that both men repay the money within six months.

The report also called for strict adherence to treasury instructions on expenditure and "deplored" the assembly's payment of R865 514 in bank overdraft charges for the year under review.

House for rector

It also criticised the acquisition of a R149 000 house in Louis Trichardt for the use of Prof Du Plessis as rector of the university. It called for the immediate sale of the house and the provision of a rector's residence within the boundaries of Venda.

The committee also reported that staff members at the university were being overpaid because they were granted various allowances.

It called for the departments of Education and Finance to conduct a survey on staff salaries.

Should the outcome of the investigations show that the salary structure of the university is higher than those of other similar universities, any future general salary increases should be withheld until such time as salary scales fall into line.

The committee said it found that "expatriate" staff members of the university were being given a housing allowance which was "a housing subsidy in disguise".

It said these expatriates owned houses outside Venda and called either for the subsidy to be stopped or for it to "be applied without discrimination among all employees". — Sapa

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MPHEPHU HOLIDAY

VENDA had declared a special holiday today to honour its late president, Chief Patrick Mphephu (right), who died on April 17 last year, the homeland's director general for information and broadcasting announced at the weekend. Sowetan 17/4/89.

The director general also announced that a 25-minute film, entitled *"Venda - Road To Self Sufficiency"*, has been released to commemorate the homeland's 10th anniversary of "independence."

Town clerk faces inquiry

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Sowetan 17/4/89

MR SOLLY Rammala, Atteridgeville town clerk, will appear before the city council's disciplinary committee today.

Mr Eric Goosen, who led evidence during the Kriel Commission of Inquiry into allegations of corruption and irregularities in the council, announced last Friday that the commission's hearing will resume on April 24 because Mr Rammala would be appearing before the city council.

The town clerk is expected to give evidence before the commission on alleged irregularities in the council.

VENDA (113) FMAIL 7/4/89.

Academic struggles

Venda University (Univen) is once again coming under the spotlight. This time it is not because of campus unrest. Univen's principal and his predecessor are both caught up in a tussle with the Venda government, for different reasons. In latest developments:

☐ A committee of the Venda parliament has proposed that principal Professor Pieter du Plessis and a Cabinet minister repay a Venda town council R400 000 which was used to buy a Louis Trichardt farm; and

☐ Du Plessis's predecessor, Professor Tom de Koning, has threatened to sue the Venda

(113) FMAIL 7/4/89.

De Koning . . . no pension, no work

government for R2m for freezing his pension and defiling his honour.

According to the committee's report, the Louis Trichardt farm belongs to a corporation owned by Du Plessis and George Ramabulana, who is Venda's Minister for Public Works, Transport and Post and Telegraphs. Ramabulana is a former Education Minister (the department under which Univen falls).

The committee has also criticised the purchase for Du Plessis of a R150 000 official residence in Louis Trichardt. The *FM* reported more than a year ago that the purchase of the house aroused severe criticism from university staff (*Current Affairs* September 25 1987). The committee proposes that the house be sold immediately and that another be bought in Venda instead. This week De Koning (former head of the communications department at Rand Afrikaans University), in an interview with the *FM*, spoke for the first time about his sudden departure from Univen at the end of 1985. He left after having been cleared of any alleged misconduct or irregularities by a university commission of inquiry.

"The good name of the principal of the university should be cleared," concluded the commission's report. Regarding De Koning's directorship of an export company, Tsimbi Staal, the commission found no irregularities and stated its disappointment that the matter was ever raised with it. The commission did, however, question De Koning's way of communicating with staff and council members.

After an agreement was reached between De Koning and the university council on his 36-year pension refund, his monthly payment of R2 249,84 was suddenly stopped a year later. Since then De Koning has been locked in a battle with the Venda government to secure his pension, but to no avail.

"I have no pension and I have no work," De Koning said this week. For the sake of the university and its people he would still like the matter to be resolved amicably. And in a last attempt this week he contacted National Intelligence chief T M Mutshaeni to intervene on his behalf before taking legal action.

Previously De Koning wrote to Mutshaeni, Ramabulana and Venda President Frank Ravele, as well as Du Plessis, to try to secure his pension. In a letter dated June 1 1988 he wrote to Mutshaeni: "As director general of intelligence, I also feel that you may be concerned about what such a court case might do to Venda . . . I still believe that God will put right the injustice done to me." ■

Venda's pulling power pays off

B/Day 26/4/89 (113)

TO DATE 40 factories have been established at the industrial estate of Thohoyandou in Venda in the far northern Transvaal.

Investment in land and buildings amounts to R12,6m while businessmen have invested R22m. Together with R6m from Venda Develpment Corporation total industrial investment is more than R40m.

Five agro-industries have also been established with the help of Venda Agriculture Corporation.

Scope for further investment is virtually unlimited with 460 ha available at the growth point.

Incentives offered to industrialists include a 60% transport rebate, employment incentive for 95% of the salary and wage bill per worker, to a maximum of R110 a month, a training grant, an 80% interest or rental concession, 60% housing subsidy for 20 years, relocation allowance of R5 000 and a price preference of 10% on government tenders.

Other attractions include a stable and abundant labour force and plentiful supply of sub-tropical fruit, timber and other agricultural produce, which can be processed locally.

VDC is developing 21 standard factory buildings. Nine have been completed. Applications received range from steel and timber to agricultural organisations.

The VDC also encourages commercial development and has invested R28m in tripartnership companies to curb the outflow of money. Combined turnover of these companies exceeds R77m a year and all are profitable.

The companies are mainly in the hotel, wholesale and retail trading, manufacturing and food sectors. They have provided jobs for 1 000 VhaVenda people.

Sowetan 24/4/89

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PAC man Madzunya gets political send-off

By MATHATHA TSEDU

PAN Africanist congress founder member, Mr Josis Madzunya, was buried at his home village of Tshidzini in a funeral service characterised by political speeches, freedom songs and large scale police activity.

Police of the Venda homeland manned two roadblocks on the route leading to Tshidzini and conducted searches of mourners. Several youths were turned back while six were detained in a tent for the whole day and only released after the funeral.

A security policeman who was filming the proceedings was expelled after he claimed that he was a journalist. The filming continued from the gate, about 500 metres from where a large contingent of policemen in riot gear were stationed. The policemen and the road blocks were dismantled immediately after the burial.

Speakers at the service paid glowing tribute to Mr Madzunya's unwavering commitment to "the struggle to repossess the entire Azania.

They said the coat that Mr Madzunya always wore was a continued reminder that the struggle was far from over.

Messages read included a tribute by PAC President, Mr Zephania Mothopeng and Azapo president, Mr Nkosi Molala.

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Venda education students demand rector's resignation

THOHOYANDOU — Students at the Venda College of Education continued their five-day boycott of classes yesterday despite the Venda Department of Education's attempt to meet their initial demand.

The Director General for Education, Mr S Makhuvha, confirmed that the students had earlier demanded the expulsion of a female student, Miss Wonderful Ramavhulela, who was allowed to write her supplementary examinations in April, contrary to normal practice at the college.

Mrs Ramavhulela wrote her first year course examinations last year and was arrested earlier this year for alleged fraud committed in 1987.

She was released in April and allowed to write her supplementary examinations.

She passed and continued with her second year courses.

Mr Makhuvha said his department had ordered the removal of the student from the college and said further that the students were now demanding the resignation of the college rector, Mr F J Bothma, who, according to students, handled the matter in a corrupt manner.

Students vowed to continue with the class boycott until the rector resigns.

Mr Makhuvha said the expulsion of the rector was an unreasonable demand. — Sapa.

Star 10/5/89 (113)

Drug and alcohol abuse now a feature of life in Venda

By Winnie Graham

When Abel (11), a village boy in Venda, plays truant from school, the chances are he is sniffing glue with his friends.

This formerly urban problem is becoming the "in" thing among schoolboys in Venda, where boredom and the breakdown of traditional values is taking an increasing toll in drug and alcohol abuse.

Mr Edzisani Ramaite, information officer of the Society on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence in Venda (SAVE), said this week drug and alcohol abuse had become such a worrying feature of life in Venda that the society had been formed.

Plans are afoot to build a rehabilitation clinic for alcohol and drug addicts at Manamane near Thohoyandou.

"After centuries of social tribal drinking of traditional beer, the sudden emergence of alcoholism, along with its serious social and pyschological manifestations, is viewed with great concern."

Dagga was the most abused drug in Venda, he said. Glue-sniffing was a new phenomenon amomg the poor because glue could be bought cheaply and easily. A host of anti-headache, anti-stress, anti-pain tablets, powders and capsules were also being abused.

Mr Ramaite said alcohol abuse among teenagers was becoming increasingly common because there were few bars, shebeens and lounges that did not sell alcohol to minors. Police liquor squads were "numerically and technically" inadequate in enforcing the law.

Mr Ramaite said the social and economic changes being experienced in Venda, coupled with the breakdown of traditional values, urbanisation and the ready availability of alcohol, were partly responsible for the changing drinking patterns of the people. The matter was aggravated by unemployment.

Mr Ramaite added: "Rapid urbanisation, industrialisation and deculturalisation inevitably give rise to tension, social pressures, frustrations and boredom — all fertile grounds for the growth of alcohol and drug abuse. The problem has very serious consequences."

The SAVE Centre for Drug Studies, he said, had introduced preventive educational programmes in an attempt to stem the tide of dependency-related problems. The society had also launched a fund-raising drive to build a rehabilitation centre. Donations may be sent to Private Bag 2430, Sibasa, Venda.

Mr Edzisani Ramaite (left) of the Society of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence in Venda, and the society's chairman, Mr K S Negota.

day jailed for six-and-a-half years.

Cape Times 12/5/89

School hostel may close

EAST LONDON. — Dale College in King William's Town is considering closing one of its hostels, possibly at the end of the year, because of a drop in the number of boarders.

(113)

Cape Times 12/5/89

Education College closed

THOHOYANDOU. — The Venda College of Education has been closed following a boycott of classes by trainee teachers, the homeland's Department of Information and Broadcasting said yesterday.

(113)

Cape Times 14/5/89

Venda students sent home after boycott

By SAMKELO KUMALO

HUNDREDS of students of the Venda College of Education in Thohoyandou were told on Thursday to go home after a prolonged class boycott.

The students were told they could re-apply for admission through the rector, said the director-general of the Department of Education, S Makhuvha.

Makhuvha said the strike began last week when students questioned the manner in which a student, Wonderful Ramavhulela, had been allowed to write the supplementary exam she missed earlier when she was in custody facing a criminal charge.

The college principal, FJ Bothma, permitted her to write, but the students demanded she be refused entry. At first the rector refused, but later succumbed to their demands and told Ramavhulela to go back home.

Makhuva said students had then demanded the rector be fired, but the department had thought this unreasonable.

"This week we asked them to go back to classes while we investigated their grievance against Bothma, but they refused. The only action open to us was to close the college and give those who wanted to continue with their training a chance to gain re-admission," he said.

The late Chief Mphephu

Sowetan 15/5/89

Mphephu inquest

THE inquest hearing into the death of former Venda life president, Paramount Chief Patrick R Mphephu, is to begin in the Louis Trichardt Magistrate's Court today.

(113)

Rumours were rife at the time of his death that he had been poisoned but police in Pretoria, where he died after a sudden illness, denied this and said he had died of multiple organ failure.

The inquest is set for three days.

Venda President died from organs' failure

(113)

LOUIS TRICHARDT — President Patrick Mphephu of Venda died from failure of all his vital organs on April 17 1988, a State pathologist told an inquest court here yesterday.

B/Day 12/5/89

Prof J D Loubser, who testified that he examined Mphephu's body, said he was not able to identify any other possible causes of death. He had particularly searched for signs of poisoning, in view of certain rumours.

The inquest proceedings were attended by several Venda dignitaries including the late president's widow, Doris Mphephu, who asked several questions.

His personal physician Dr Ram Varadarajulu said he had warned his patient that he needed treatment, but the latter had stubbornly resisted his orders.

Mphephu's widow said she could not understand why her husband's condition deteriorated so drastically within two days. He had been in good health on April 15 but had died on April 17.

Three nursing sisters from the Pretoria hospital where the president died submitted sworn statements to the court regarding the treatment he received.

The inquest continues today before W A J van Zyl. — Sapa.

No poison found, Mphephu inquest told

113

STAR 16/5/87

LOUIS TRICHARDT — An inquest on the death of President Patrick Mphephu of Venda began here yesterday amid great public interest.

The proceedings were attended by the late president's widow, Mrs Doris Mphephu, and several Venda chiefs and headmen. The magistrate allowed Mrs Mphephu to ask questions.

President Mphephu died in a Pretoria nursing home on April 17 1988 after becoming ill on April 15.

State pathologist Professor J.D Loubser said Mr Mphephu had died of multi-organ failure. Professor Loubser added that he had looked for signs of poisoning in view of certain rumours but found no evidence of it.

Among several sworn statements submitted was one by the deceased's personal physician, Dr Ramakrishnan Varadarajulu.

Mrs Mphephu could not understand why her husband, who "had been in good health on the Friday", had deteriorated rapidly until his death on the Sunday.

Dr Varadarajulu said the president had stubbornly refused to heed his advice to go into hospital for treatment. When he was eventually admitted, it was too late. — Northern Transvaal Bureau.

Mphephu's death 117 'not due to a crime'

By Dirk Nel,
Northern Transvaal Bureau

LOUIS TRICHARDT — The death of President Patrick Mphephu of Venda was not due to any negligence or crime, magistrate Mr W A J van Zyl found yesterday after a two day inquest on the death.

"After carefully considering the evidence before me, I find that his death was due to multiple organ failure, but the reason for this failure is unknown," said Mr van Zyl.

But he expressed his concern about the symptoms which, according to certain evidence, the president had displayed prior to his death on April 17 1988.

"However, this court has no jurisdiction in Venda, and I will not comment further on the matter," the magistrate added.

Earlier, the late president's bodyguard, a waiter and a chef at the presidential residence, testified that President Mphephu had been in good health on Friday April 15.

When they saw him on Saturday April 16 at about 9.30 am, he was seriously ill, and complained of pains in his legs.

A doctor was called and the president was transferred to a clinic in Pretoria, where he died on Sunday April 17.

All the president's household employees were closely questioned about what he had eaten on Friday.

All of them said they had eaten the same food, and had not suffered any ill-effects.

The court also heard that police later took possession of a cold drink bottle, wine casket and a glass.

The magistrate said he was satisfied that all the necessary steps had been taken to treat the president when he became ill, and he added he was also satisfied that Dr J D Loubser, the State pathologist, had done everything he could to determine the cause of the president's death.

He accepted Dr Loubser's finding that death was due to organ failure.

Mrs Doris Mphephu, the president's wife, told the magistrate she was not satisfied that investigations into the president's death had been thorough enough, and she also found Dr Loubser's conclusions unacceptable.

MPHEPHU'S WIFE TO FIGHT ON

Not happy about police investigation

NORTHERN TRANSVAAL BUREAU

THE widow of the late President Patrick Mphephu of Venda is upset with the manner in which her husband's death was investigated.

Mrs Doris Mphephu made it clear after an inquest into the president's death, that she would not let the matter rest there.

Regional magistrate, Mr Waj van Zyl in the Louis Trichardt Magistrate's Court found that the president's death of April 17, 1988, was caused by multiple organ failure, and that there had been no negligence or crime involved.

Mrs Mphephu queried the thoroughness of the Venda police investigation when she addressed the inquest court after the findings had been announced.

"They did not visit my husband's office or the house, and there were no thorough inquiries into the procedures followed when tea was served to him and his visitors," she claimed.

There had been speculation that the president may have been poisoned.

Van Zyl replied that it was not for him to comment on the thoroughness of the investigations, or the events preceeding the president's death, as the court had no jurisdiction in Venda.

The task of the court had been to simply consider the evidence placed before it, he added.

When announcing his findings, Van Zyl expressed his personal concern about "the symptoms the president displayed prior to his death."

According to evidence, President Mphephu had been in good health on Friday, April, 15, but became seriously ill early the next day, and complained of pains in his legs.

A doctor was called and the president was transferred to a clinic in Pretoria where he died on April 17.

The magistrate said he was satisfied that Dr J D Loubser, the State pathologist, had done everything he could to determine the cause of death.

MRS DORIS MPHEPHU

Death of 3 softball players

GARANKUWA has lost its third softballer in five days with the sudden death of Mr Vincent "Gidi" Moledi (25).

Moledi, ace pitcher of Astros, died on Tuesday night after their Monday practice session, according to Mr Barry Matemane, the team's coach yesterday.

On Saturday, two Garankuwa Rantol Orioles players, Mr Wycliffe Nkwashu (22) and Mr Christopher "Stoffie" Mabunda (23), were knocked down by a car. Nkwashu died on the spot while Mabunda died on Monday.

Matemane said: "On Monday 'Gidi' and I made arrangements to organise friendly games for our juniors' team which he started last month.

"We were to meet again yesterday but he failed to turn-up at our practice. I was shocked to learn that he has died. His family said he will be buried next week.

"This is a great loss to softball in Garankuwa if you consider the death of Wycliffe and 'Stoffie' who were also good players."

Nkwashu and Mabunda will be buried in Garankuwa on Saturday. A joint funeral service will be held at the local YMCA Hall in Zone 5 at 10am.

Was Venda's Chief Mphephu poisoned?

Sowetan 22/5/89 (113)

FOCUS

FRIDAY April 15 1988 was a normal working day for Chief Patrick Mphephu as he went about his duties as President of the Venda homeland.

He arrived at the office just after 8am, saw Justice Minister Mr A A Tshivhase, then the Foreign Minister and an Ambassador during the morning tea break.

He left his office about 1pm for a function at a centre called Goede Hoop and came back a happy man. He continued with his work until 4.30 when he bid his private secretary goodbye for the weekend.

But by the following morning, Chief Mphephu was a critically ill and dying man, wobbling in his bedroom and unable to reach the toilet without leaning against the wall.

Running

An aide said there was clear indication in the morning that he had been having a running stomach. A doctor was called and he was later flown to a private hospital in Pretoria.

Doctors said all vital organs including the heart, lungs, liver and kidneys had failed. Attempts to raise the blood level by pumping water into the body had clogged the lungs. Rescusitation machines were used as he sweated and shivered.

He died the following night writhing in pain and passing blood through the mouth, penis and scrotum.

Chief Patrick Mphephu's death shocked many.

The news of Chief Mphephu's death shocked many people in the homeland. The man who had been at the helm of the homeland's affairs since its inception, whose name had become synonymous with the homeland, was suddenly no more.

What had caused the sudden death of the 63-year-old chief who had become notorious for his uncompromising conservativeness?

Rumours

Rumours were rife at the time that he had been poisoned. These rumours were denied by the South African Police in Pretoria who said he had died of multiple organ failure.

When the inquest court sat in Louis Trichardt last week to determine the cause of death, those lucky enough to be allowed in were left in no doubt about what the family thought and had caused the death.

Poison

Widow Mrs Doris Mphephu, who surprisingly conducted cross examination of witnesses on her own without assistance of the lawyers, closely questioned renowned pathologist, Professor J D Loubser, about the presence of poison in her husband's body.

Prof Loubser said a thorough examination of the body had been conducted but no trace of poison would be found.

He said the rapid decline of Chief Mphephu's condition was consistent with toxics derived from trees. He said Chief Mphephu's stomach had been empty of foodstuff but filled with blood. There had therefore been no food residues to check from.

In answer to a question by Mrs Mphephu, Prof Loubser said it was possible that if Chief Mphephu had been poisoned, the substance could have left the body with the heavy diarrhoea that had marked the beginning of the end of the president.

The kitchen staff at the palace were also called as well as the chief body guard, Major Samson Muladelo Raphulu. All were closely questioned by Mrs Mphephu about food preparation and what Chief Mphephu actually had for supper.

Wine

Evidence was led that police had searched the bedroom 4 days later and found a glass of wine, a coke, beer and biltong.

None of the staff members could explain how the items had got into the bedroom. Mrs Mphephu said she was not satisfied with the medical findings as well as the police investigations.

"They did not visit my husband's office or the house and there were no thorough inquiries into the procedures followed when tea was served to him and his visitors," Mrs Mphephu said.

Inquest magistrate, Mr W A J van Zyl, said he was "personally concerned about the symptoms the president displayed prior to his death."

He said he was however satisfied that Prof Loubser had done everything he could to determine the cause of the organ failure.

Absence

In the absence of any other evidence, he ruled that Chief Mphephu had died of multiple organ failure and that no one was responsible for this.

The finding has not answered the question of why a healthy 63-year-old man who was smiling the previous day as he prepared for a Saturday engagement, should wake up in an advance state of degeneration with all vital organs about to cease.

Was he poisoned? This is the question that will *continue to reverberate*, Mrs Mphephu's declaration that she was not going to let the matter rest is a sure indication that at least the family believes Chief Mphephu's condition was a result of poisoning.

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Sam Mabe. Sub-editing, headlines and posters by Sydney Matlhaku. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

• Write to the Editor at PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000. Nom-de-plumes can be used, but full names and addresses should be supplied or the letter will not be published.

Boycotts hit colleges

By MATHATHA TSEDU

TEACHER training colleges in the far northern Transvaal are on the boil with at least four affected by class boycotts, authorities have confirmed.

Three of the institutions are in Venda, where one, the Venda College of Education, was closed down more than a week ago following a long-standing boycott demanding the immediate dismissal of the rector. The students have refused to reapply and are insisting that the rector, Mr F J Bothma, be dismissed.

Students at Makhado College boycotted classes on Thursday demanding the immediate dismissal of a white lecturer who was said to be a racist. The lecturer, a Mr van der Merwe, was immediately escorted out of the campus by the chanting students. He had been transferred from the Ramaano Mbulaheni College earlier this year after similar complaints by students.

At the Ramaano Mbulaheni College, students doing technical training are on a class boycott which started a week ago. They are protesting against underqualified white lecturers.

Still in Venda, students from the local university returned to classes last Friday after the administration agreed to admit 12 students earlier barred from the institution. The 12 included the past president of the student representative council.

Students said other demands, including the immediate dismissal of alleged racist lecturers, the scrapping of a degree in police science and the immediate expulsion of all policemen doing the degree, were still to be negotiated with the administration.

Modjadji College near Duiwelskloof was closed down last Monday when students stormed out of campus after handing a list of grievances to the college administration. The students are complaining about alleged unhygienic hostel conditions.

At the Dr C N Phatudi College, students boycotted classes a week ago but returned for lectures the past week. They had given the administration up to last Friday to meet their demands or they would resume the boycott yesterday.

Authorities in both homelands confirmed that there were widespread troubles in the colleges.

(1) Whether his Department was involved in placing advertisements promoting the settlement plan for South West Africa/Namibia; if so, (a) at what total cost and (b) in respect of what specified period is this figure given;

(2) whether these advertisements were placed in publications distributed in South West Africa/Namibia; if so, (a) in which publications and (b) on what dates; if not, why not?

B722E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) No. A publication is, however, being prepared which will contain the various agreements and UN Security Council decisions.

(2) This publication will be distributed in South West Africa/Namibia, South Africa and abroad.

Bophuthatswana: financial advances

366. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether any (a) loans, (b) lines of credit and (c) other specified financial advances were granted directly or indirectly by the Government or any Department or agency of the Government to (i) the Government of, (ii) any Government Department of, (iii) a development corporation in and (iv) any other specified person or organization in Bophuthatswana in the 1988-89 financial year; if so,

(2) (a) what amounts were involved in each case and (b) what was the total amount outstanding as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

B768E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) Yes
(b) No
(c) No
(a) (i) Yes
(ii) No
(iii) No
(iv) No
(b) (i) No
(ii) No
(iii) No
(iv) No
(c) (i) No
(ii) No
(iii) No
(iv) No

(2) (a) *Loans* R3 240 000
Lines of Credit: None
(b) amount in respect of loans outstanding as at 31 March 1989: R47 844 526
The information furnished above is only in respect of the activities of the Department of Foreign Affairs and therefore does not include any possible assistance by other RSA Departments or agencies.

Ciskei: financial advances

367. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether any (a) loans, (b) lines of credit and (c) other specified financial advances were granted directly or indirectly by the Government or any Department or agency of the Government to (i) the Government of, (ii) any Government Department of, (iii) a development corporation in and (iv) any other specified person or organization in Ciskei in the 1988-89 financial year; if so

(2) (a) what amounts were involved in each case and (b) what was the total amount outstanding as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

B769E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) Yes
(b) Yes, guarantees for the repayment of overdraft facilities.
(c) No.
(a) (i) Yes
(ii) No
(iii) No
(iv) No
(b) (i) Yes
(ii) No
(iii) No
(iv) No
(c) (i) No
(ii) No
(iii) No
(iv) No

(2) (a) *Loans* R46 652 000
Lines of credit: Guaranteed overdraft facilities R172 000 000
(b) amount in respect of loans outstanding as at 31 March 1989: R24 932 110
The information furnished above is only in respect of the activities of the Department of Foreign Affairs and therefore does not include any possible assistance by other RSA Departments or agencies.

Transkei: financial advances

368. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether any (a) loans, (b) lines of credit and (c) other specified financial advances were granted directly or indirectly by the Government or any Department or agency of the Government to (i) the Government of, (ii) any Government Department of, (iii) a development corporation in and (iv) any other specified person or organization in Transkei in the 1988-89 financial year; if so

(2) (a) what amounts were involved in each case and (b) what was the total amount outstanding as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

B770E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) No
(b) Yes, guarantees for the repayment of overdraft facilities
(c) No.
(a) (i) No
(ii) No
(iii) No
(iv) No
(b) (i) Yes
(ii) No
(iii) No
(iv) No
(c) (i) No
(ii) No
(iii) No
(iv) No

(2) (a) *Loans* None
Lines of credit: Guaranteed overdraft facilities R80 000 000
(b) amount in respect of loans outstanding as at 31 March 1989: R102 911 157.
The information furnished above is only in respect of the activities of the Department of Foreign Affairs and therefore does not include any possible assistance by other RSA Departments or agencies.

Venda: financial advances

384. Mr R A F SWART asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether any (a) loans, (b) lines of credit and (c) other specified financial advances were granted directly or indirectly by the Government or any Department or agency of the Government to (i) the Government of, (ii) any Government Department of, (iii) a development corporation in and (iv) any other specified person or organization in Venda in the 1988-89 financial year; if so,

(2) (a) what amounts were involved in each case and (b) what was the total amount outstanding as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

B786E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) Yes
(b) Yes, guarantees for the repayment of overdraft facilities.
(c) No.
(a) (i) Yes
(ii) No

Crisis day in Venda

Sowetan 29/5/89 (113)

TODAY is make or break day for three teacher training colleges in Venda where students have been out of class for over a month in one case.

Police on Friday clashed with students at Makhado College where students have been on a sympathy boycott.

Thirty four students were briefly detained after the unrest.

Focus

The focus will fall on the Venda College of Education which was closed down on May 11 following a lecture boycott that started on April 25.

At the Ramaano Mbulaheni In-Service Training College, the principal sent all students home on Wednesday shortly before a scheduled mass meeting to deliberate on solidarity action with Veco (Venda College of Education).

Venda students may end boycott

Star 30/5/87 (113)

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Venda education authorities are hopeful that the month-long boycott by 600 students at the Venda College of Education will come to an end this week and that sympathy strikes by other students will also soon be over.

The boycotts have been part of a wave of student protest that has swept tertiary education institutions in Venda over the last month, involving thousands of students at four campuses in boycott action.

Director of Education Mr S Makhuvha said yesterday that about 100 of the students at Venda College of Education, who have been boycotting classes and living off campus since the end of April, had returned to campus at the administration's invitation.

He said they had indicated that things would be back to normal by today when more students were expected to return.

"Our gates are open. We want them back. There will be no victimisation of any sort," said Mr Makhuvha.

'SYMPATHY STRIKE'

He said the same applied to Makhado College of Education students who went on strike a week ago in sympathy with the Venda College students.

Mr Makhavha said the authorities had attended to many of the Venda College students' grievances regarding hostel conditions and student admission.

Sources in the community said that students also were dissatisfied with the rector of the college.

"If they have grievances about the rector they must come back to college and discuss them. The complaints cannot be attended to behind the rector's back," said Mr Makhuvha.

Asked whether Makhado students had been sjambokked by the police on Wednesday last week, he confirmed that there had been police action against the students. This had taken place at a shopping centre where the students had "misbehaved when they were out of our control".

Although sources in the community said that students at Tshisimane College were also boycotting exams, Mr Makhuvha denied this and said exams were "in full swing" there yesterday.

Building gutted

(113)

Sowetan 26/8/9

THE administration building of the Venda College of Education was gutted on Wednesday night, two days after students returned to the college following a month-long class boycott, the commissioner for the Venda police, Lieutenant General T R Mulaudzi, confirmed yesterday.

The fire started at about 9pm in the rector's office, according to student sources. Mulaudzi said police were still trying to ascertain the cause of the fire. He said extensive damage to the block, estimated at over R24 000, was caused.

16 Venda politicians lose case

Sowetan 15/6/89

113

By MATHATHA TSEDU

AN application by 16 Venda politicians to the local Supreme Court to declare a special meeting of the homeland's parliament last September invalid was this week dismissed with costs.

The Chief Justice of Venda, Mr C J le Roux, also ruled that the amendments to the Electoral Act and the Venda Constitution Act effected during that sitting were legal.

The application was submitted by 16 local politicians who were barred from contesting in the homeland's elections last year. The politicians, mostly former members of the now defunct opposition party, challenged the decision of the nomination court in an application to the Supreme Court.

They argued that the basis on which the decision to bar them was made, namely that they did not have a VNP One certificate, was not a prerequisite for nomination in terms of either the Electoral Act or the Constitution Act.

A few days before the government was due to respond to the application, the Venda president, Mr Frank Ravele, summoned the then prorogued Assembly on September 8 and amended the two Acts by inserting the VNP One requirement back dating the Act to 1986 thus effectively nullifying the application.

In response, the 16 lodged another application in which they challenged the recalling.

See page 16

near Delmas.

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Official's MA degree 'fake'

113

Win a home contest in Sowetan tomorrow

A MASTER'S degree conferred on a senior Venda government official by the University of Venda last year was yesterday withdrawn following an investigation which revealed that it was not wholly original.

Sowetan 22/6/89

A university spokesman said yesterday that the director general for public works, Mr E B T Ravele, had been ordered

By MATHATHA TSEDU

to return the certificate awarded to him.

The withdrawal of the degree follows the findings of a three-man commission which investigated the authenticity of the thesis. The commission submitted its findings to the rector, Prof P W du Plessis, on Tuesday.

It recommended that:

- The results of the examination be cancelled and the degree withdrawn with immediate effect;
- The certificate be returned;
- Ravele be allowed to "submit the second edition of the dissertation in its present form or revised form within one year" for a re-examination by two independent

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Examination

113

Sowetan 22/6/89

From Page 1

external examiners to be appointed by the principal; and

- That if he passes the new examination, a new degree be conferred on him.

The dissertation, titled "The role of the director general in the development of education in Venda", was later withdrawn from public libraries pending the outcome of the commission.

The commission, comprising of professors T J van Heerden, E K Lukhaimani and B K Peckham, did not say anything about the man who supervised the thesis, Prof R Grebe, who has since left the university and is now in Port Elizabeth.

Venda denies any irregularity

113

STAR 27/7/87

THOHOYANDOU — The Venda Government has denied allegations made earlier this year about irregularities in the buying of a farm near Louis Trichardt which allegedly involved Professor Pieter du Plessis, the rector of the University of Venda. The allegations were made by several prominent Venda citizens.

ROW ABOUT FARM OVER

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Sowetan 10/7/89

THE Venda Minister of Education, Mr G. Ramabulana and the rector of the University of Venda, Professor P W du Plessis, had paid back the money which they used to purchase a farm in the Louis Trichardt district.

A statement released by the department of information and broadcasting said the farm, Cloud's End, which was bought in a controversial deal has been sold to a private company to recover the money which was "fraudulently used by the two." (113)

All the funds in connection with the purchase and the proceeds including profit from the sale of the farm have been fully accounted for and paid over to the Venda Government, the statement said.

However, the statement said, Du Plessis was specifically instructed by the late President P W Mphephu to purchase the farm upon which he acted in good faith and in the best interest of Venda.

Venda tense after man's body is found

Cape Times 18/7/89

113

PIETERSBURG. — Venda remained tense yesterday following the discovery on Sunday of the body of an ex-detainee who mysteriously disappeared from his home at the weekend.

Deputy Chief Police Commissioner Major-General N J Leshi confirmed yesterday that Mr Mitwa Mutheiwana had been found dead west of Tshakuma village on Sunday.

"The body was complete — no parts were missing," General Leshi said.

The disappearance of Mr Mutheiwana sparked off a widespread manhunt by youths who barricaded roads and searched cars at the weekend. It was widely believed the dead man may have been executed for ritual purposes.

Mr Mutheiwana was a neighbour of the teacher, Mr Mokosi Mavhina, whose death last year resulted in a three-day work stay-away which culminated in the resignation of a cabinet minister. — Sapa

ANGER OVER RITUAL DEATH

Sowetan 18/7/89.

(113)

Sowetan 18/7/89

No parts missing from body

(113)

● From page 1

firmed that Muthiewana's body had been found. He said there were no parts missing from the body, but a post-mortem would be conducted.

Over a 100 policemen were at the village yesterday but they did not interfere with the meeting.

A helicopter made several rounds over the meeting.

Muthiewana, who was once detained by the Venda police, is to be buried on Saturday morning, his father, Mr Sidze Muthiewana, said yesterday.

He said: "There is a man in the village who has powerful muti that he is calling people out to be killed".

Muthiewana leaves his expectant wife, Beauty, and a two-year-old daughter, Livhuwana.

Mavhina's death last year caused outrage and led to a three-day work stoppage and the dismissal of a cabinet minister in the homeland.

A commission of inquiry to investigate last year's upheavels is due to submit its report at the end of the month, according to a Supreme Court official.

5 000 protest in a tense homeland

OVER 5 000 people gathered at a tense meeting at Tshakhuma, Venda, yesterday to protest against ritual killings following the discovery of a body in the village on Sunday.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

The body of Mr Victor Muitwa Muthiewana (28) of Tshakhuma was found in the bushes next to the main Phunda Milia road after a two days' house to house search in the village.

Muthiewana left his house on Friday night after telling his wife that he was hearing mysterious voices that were calling him. He never returned.

The entire homeland is now tense as two other people are also believed to have been killed at Khubvi.

At almost the same time last year, Tshakhuma teacher Mr Mukosi Mavhina left his home claiming that he was hearing voices. He was later found hanged.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by youths, workers, parents and businessmen. Chanting youths denounced the homeland system and insisted that the Venda government had killed both Muthiewana and Mavhina. They called for a boycott of the coming independence celebration.

The youths also called for the immediate release of colleagues arrested during the commemoration of Mavhina's death early last week.

Police commissioner Lieutenant General T R Mulaudzi yesterday con-

● To Page 2

Police Commissioner General Mulaudzi.

REPORTS, pictures and comment in this edition may be censored in terms of the Government's state of emergency.

Venda still tense

(113)

Sowetan 19/7/89

TENSION continued to grip Venda yesterday as pupils in various areas boycotted classes in protest against alleged ritual killings and called for a boycott of the coming "independence" celebrations.

Education director general, Mr Samson Makhuvha, said some schools at the trouble-torn Tshakhuma village had had a zero percent attendance.

He said pupils at Sibasa and Tshisaulu schools as well as Khubvi had stayed away. He said some were chased by others while trying to attend lessons.

At Tshakhuma, where a 28-year-old man died under mysterious circumstances at the weekend, police and army personnel patrolled the area and surroundings throughout the night, residents said.

This followed a meeting on Monday to protest the death of Mr Victor Muitwa Mutheivana who, it is said, was killed for ritual purposes.

Workers at Tshakhuma, who had stayed away on Monday, returned to work yesterday.

At the root of the growing crisis in the homeland is a deep-rooted belief that senior government officials are involved in ritual killings.

It is alleged that these officials use their influences to curb in-depth police investigations of these crimes.

Trouble at Khubvi started last week when it was alleged that a soldier who was found dead alongside a road had in fact been murdered. It is said that the body of the soldier, Mr Richard Funanani Netshitungulu, had several parts, removed.

'Independence' donations anger Venda officials

VENDA teachers and civil servants are up in arms over forced donations of up to R80 per person that they are being made to offer to cover costs of the "independence" celebrations.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

The money, which varies from area to area, is supposed to cover local and district celebrations, the officials said. The grumbling government servants said chiefs had levied amounts that each employee of government had to pay.

Those at Themngwe are paying R80 while those at Lwamondo are paying R70. Others pay R20, they said. The Director General for Information and Broadcasting, Mr L Ramavoya, said in response to an inquiry that he was not aware of the matter.

"It is probably at district level because I am not aware of such a decision," he said.

But the irate officials said it was unfair. "We know that Pretoria has given them R2 million for the celebrations. Why do we have to pay? We were not consulted on this so called independence but now we have to foot its bill," one teacher said.

The Northern Transvaal Students Organisation (NTSO) has called on the affected officials not to pay the forced donations. "These people must not be made to pay as no one will be going there. We cannot be expected to pay and then go and celebrate ten years of intensified oppression and exploitation," NTSO said in a statement.

The crisis generated by allegations of ritual killings deepened yesterday. Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General T R Mulaudzi, said very few pupils were at school yesterday. He confirmed that the post mortem on Muitwa Victor Mutheiwana, who was found dead on Sunday after he ran away from home claiming that mysterious voices were calling him, had been performed.

Results of the post mortem were still being awaited, he said. There had been no report to the police about a teacher, Mr Tshifhiwa Maraga, also of Tshakhuma, who allegedly went berserk on Tuesday night claiming that he was being called.

Sources at Tshakhuma said Maraga had had to be tied and was later taken to hospital where he was certified normal. They said he was still at home where he was under guard.

Mutheiwama was the second person at Tshakhuma to claim hearing voices and later found dead. People in the village believe that witchcraft is behind the incidents and have resolved to go to a sangoma to find the culprit.

Top man on ritual murder charge

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Sowetan 24/7/89

THE director-general of the Venda Intelligence Service, Mr Theophelun Musandiwa Mutshaeni, is to appear in court on August 2 charged with ritual murder. (113)

Mutshaeni, a former teacher, is to join seven other people - including two women - charged with the murder of a 12

• To Page 2

Ritual murder

Sowetan 24/7/89 (113)

• From page 1

year old girl at Tshaulu, Venda, last year.

A senior court official at Thoho-Ya-Ndou said Mutshaeni and the others would appear at the Tshaulu Magistrate's Court on August 2 for a formal remand.

The trial is set for August 21 to September 1 in the Venda Supreme Court. The other accused, Mrs Tshinakaho Netshifhefhe, Mr Mpfulusi Mathabi, Mr Frank Khavheli, Mrs Tshavhungwe Nemakhavhani, Mr Nelson Munyai, Mr Frans Tshilengo Netshirombeni and Mr Wilson Nelukalo have been in custody since September last year.

Churchmen in protest

Sowetan 27/7/87 (113)

A DELEGATION of church leaders in troubled Venda yesterday sent a petition to the bantustan's leaders calling for the cancellation of the 10th anniversary celebrations of "independence".

The petition, which further called for the withdrawal of police and army patrols from villages and townships, blamed the growing crisis in the Northern Transvaal bantustan on police laxity in investigating mysterious deaths."

The church leaders met on Tuesday in Sibasa where the Far Northern Transvaal Church Workers Conference (FNTCWC) was formed. It was at this meeting that a decision to send a petition was taken.

The FNTCWC comprises church ministers from various denominations. Also included in the organisations are officials of the Northern Transvaal Council of Churches. The petition was signed by 20 people.

A spokesman for the organisation, the Rev Zwoitwaho Nevhutalu, said copies of the petition were handed to the homeland's president, the minister of justice, Chief Justice and to the commissioner of police.

The Director General for Information and Broadcasting, Mr Lawrence Ramavhoya, yesterday said he was not aware of the petition.

The petition came as the crisis precipitated by allegations of ritual killings and opposition to the independence celebrations deepened with the local university closed down following the detention of students.

Reports from the area say over 200 people have been arrested since the weekend but Police Commissioner Lieutenant General T.R. Mulaudzi put the number at less than 50.

A HAUNTED VILLAGE

SOWETAN 27/7/89

Pondering the bizarre happenings, Mr Tshifhiwa Maraga in pensive mood.

Mystery voices call men into the bush at dead of night

By MATHATHA TSEDU

A 34-YEAR-old schoolteacher at the haunted village of Tshakhuma in Venda was this week locked in police cells by villagers who feared that he was under a spell of a witch who was going to kill him.

Mr Tshifhiwa David Maraga had just told his wife that he was taking a midnight stroll into the bush when his family feared he might die as was the case with another villager two days earlier.

The villager, Mr Muitwa Mutheiwana (28), left his home in the middle of the night claiming that he was hearing voices calling him. He was found two days later - dead.

Teacher

A year ago, a teacher in the village, Mr Mukosi Mavhina, left his home also claiming to be hearing voices. He was later found hanged. The community believes that witchcraft is behind these bizarre actions.

Maraga, who believes the intervention of villagers saved his life, said at the time he left his home for a 'walk' he was not in full control of himself.

"I cannot explain it but there was something in me that urged me to go to the bushes in the dead of night. I did not know why," he said.

Maraga, still shaken by the events of Monday night, said he had gone home after 10pm that evening, having shared a few beers with a friend.

"It started while I was eating. I just felt that I no longer wanted to eat or stay in the house. I took my food and went behind the house and sat and ate there. When my dog started barking, I threw the food at it because I felt it was irritating me," he said.

Maraga said events thereafter where hazy. "All I remember is that I went to my wife in the bedroom. I told her I was going for fresh air in the white trees beyond the tarred road. By then, I had put on my gumboots though I cannot recall putting them on.

"Also, I have never been to those trees in my life but at that moment I had an irresistible urge to go there," he added.

Maraga said he left his wife after telling her she would find him at the white trees situated over 2km from his home.

"The area is densely bushed and you have to cross both the Phunda Milia road and Levhubu River before reaching the spot.

Blackout

"My mind was not functioning normally at the time. For one moment I regained my senses and after a short while I would have a blackout. I remember standing near the main road and scared of lights from passing cars. I sat down to wait for passing cars before proceeding to the trees," Maraga said.

He said it was at this stage that his wife, relatives and neighbours found him at about midnight.

"They wanted me to go back home but I resisted. I wanted to go to those trees. There was a scuffle but they overpowered me and took me home. Later police came and they took me to the Vuwani police station," he added.

Maraga said he was locked in a cell until 4am on Tuesday morning when he was taken back home. He now intends seeing a sangoma to help him.

Maraga's experiences, coming only four days after Mutheiwana's disappearance and death, sent shock waves throughout the village. Local youths camped at his home on Monday and Tuesday nights, guarding him from "the spirits that wanted to whisk him away".

Maraga insists that he was not drunk, but was under a spell of some supernatural power.

Weekly 28/7/-3/8/88 (113)

Venda turmoil after ritual deaths

By VUSI GUNENE

TURMOIL is mounting in Venda, with unprecedented anti-government protest and student boycotts spreading across the homeland.

The protests, which have unleashed a ferocious security force response, have sparked calls in the Venda parliament for the imposition of a state of emergency.

A prominent church leader, Rev Zwoitwaho Nevuthalo, said every primary and secondary school in Venda had been shut by the student stayaway. About 3 000 students at the University of Venda are also boycotting classes.

Sources say the dissidence has its roots in:

- The widespread conviction that that police are dragging their feet over a spate of recent ritual killings, because government officials are involved.
- Resistance to the planned celebration of the 10th anniversary of Venda's "independence". A particular source of grievance is the taxation of residents to pay for the festivities, which are scheduled to start on September 13.
- Heavy-handed police response to protest, allegedly including the dispersal of meetings, the sjambokking of student demonstrators and the detention of dozens of residents.

Sources indicate that the security forces are maintaining a strong presence in many townships and villages in the homeland.

Students at Univen have an additional grievance. They claim that during the student vacation, homeland security force members involved in a sports event were accommodated in the campus residences.

The spark for the disturbances was the mysterious killing of three people in the Tshakuma and the Khubvi districts, two of whom were found with parts of their bodies missing.

Nevuthalu said: "Police seem to be failing to do justice to these cases, with the result that the people mistrust them and carry out searches and investigations themselves."

Following protest meetings and marches throughout the homeland related to the murders, police detained up to 100 people, according to residents.

A priest, who did not want his name published, said children as young as 12 had been detained and badly beaten by the homeland police. Venda police refused to comment when approached by the *Weekly Mail*.

On Tuesday, university students convened a mass meeting to demand that the Univen authorities press for the release of detained students and explain why security force members were allowed to use the campus during the vacation.

They also demanded that the university take responsibility for the student property that went missing.

On the same day, a petition was presented to the homeland's intelligence unit at Thohoyandou police station. About 3 000 students marched to the police station to demand the immediate release of their detained colleagues.

The petition also demanded that all ritual killers be brought to trial, that a threatened state of emergency not be imposed and that police stop harassing students.

On their way back to campus, the students were allegedly set upon by the homeland's riot squad unit and sjambokked. Police and members of the Venda Defence Force allegedly tried to force their way into the university.

The following day, VDF members turned up at the campus to play football, according to students. When students successfully petitioned the administration to cancel the game, some 600 soldiers invaded the campus. The soccer game went ahead.

Hundreds detained in Venda — claim

Star Sowetan 31/7/89 (113)

FEAR has gripped the inhabitants of the Venda homeland following allegations that more than 200 people, including students and clergymen, have been detained and assaulted by the police since Thursday last week.

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

The crisis, characterised by total school boycotts, was sparked by the disappearance of Mr Victor Muitwa Mutheiwana who claimed voices were calling him. He was found dead two days later.

Many have fled and sought refuge outside the homeland while police and army personnel patrol all areas around the clock.

The Venda police commissioner, General T R Mulaudzi, said most of those arrested will face charges of public violence and some have been held under Section 28 of the Maintenance of Law and Order. Among those detained is director of the Mulweli Counseling Centre Unit, Mr Gundo Lidovho.

General Mulaudzi declined to give the exact number of the detainees but put the figure at less than 50.

The swoop followed a move by the Northern Transvaal church workers conference and students who petitioned the Venda state president, Mr F N Ravhele, to cancel the coming "independence" celebrations and called on police to refrain from assualting people.

Ravhele on Friday issued a stern warning to clergymen and other activists that they were playing with fire by revolting against the government and opposing the celebrations.

He said he believed the people had a role to play so that a climate in which a state could perform its functions properly could be created.

On the other hand, the state was responsible for the maintenance of law and order and "if people are not prepared to listen and continued to politicise other people, they must accept the consequences thereof. The tenth anniversary celebrations will continue as planned," Ravhele said.

Venda residents beaten, detained

By VUSI GUNENE in Thohoyandou

MORE than 90 Venda residents were detained following the banning of a meeting called to discuss escalating tension in the "homeland".

The crisis in Venda is marked by widespread student boycotts and anti-government protests.

Last week, the Northern Transvaal Churchworkers Conference, a multi-denominational committee, petitioned the state president, the minister of justice and the commissioner of police, calling on them to stop the harassment of residents.

The ministers also urged the three to "make a concerted effort in investigating cases of ritual murders".

A report-back meeting scheduled for last Sunday was banned by the authorities. Those assembled at the Anglican Church in Sibasa were allegedly assaulted and sjambokked by security force members.

That night close to a hundred people, including three ministers, were detained.

A week-long stayaway has been planned for this week. Many people did not report to work on Monday, but returned the following day. However, on Wednesday the taxis and buses were not operating.

According to residents, homeland police and the Venda Defence Force began ferrying employees to work

But schools, colleges and the University of Venda have not reopened.

Weekl

113

4-10/8/89

Monday August 7 1989

Top man is suspended

Sowetan 7/8/89

(113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Director General for Venda Intelligence, Mr Theophilus Mutshaeni, has been suspended from his post following his indictment by the Attorney General for ritual murder, it was confirmed this week.

A senior official in the Public Service Commission said the suspension was effective from July 27. He said Mutshaeni's official car had also been taken from him.

Mutshaeni and seven other people appeared in the Tshaulu Periodic Court last week charged with the murder of a two-year-old boy in June last year.

Parts of the boy's body were allegedly picked up at various places but the body was never found.

The eight are to appear in the Venda Supreme Court on August 21.

Mr Mutshaeni ... intelligence director general.

Venda got R500-m boost

Northern Transvaal Bureau

The South African Government's financial aid to Venda amounted to R500 million last year, according to figures released recently.

This included direct financial assistance as well as aid in the form of loans, job creation, technical help and overdraft facilities.

The South African Ambassador to Venda, Mr Rod Smith, told reporters that R123 million had been invested in Venda by industrialists. There were now 132 established industries.

"In 1969 Venda was a forgotten corner of southern Africa, regarded at best as a labour reservoir, but the situation has changed rapidly since then," said Mr Smith.

Venda's medical services were among the best on the sub-continent, he added.

At present there were 16 061 public servants and 7 665 teachers, 66 000 children were attending high schools and the University of Venda had 4 000 students, he said.

(113) Star 7/8/89.

capital for the fourth consecutive day.

Cape Times 8/8/89

Venda college boycott

113

JOHANNESBURG. — About 600 students at the Venda College of Education refused to continue with their mid-year examinations yesterday in protest against the detention of a fellow student.

Cape Times 8/8/89

Hotel workers reinstated

JOHANNESBURG. — Southern Sun Holiday Inn has — subsequent to June 16 last year when 142 workers at six hotels were dismissed — agreed to reinstate all 142 workers unconditionally with two weeks' back pay.

Two of the estimated 200 detainees being held in Venda following the protests of the past month, Thivhilaeli Mutobvu (left) and Thomas Mawela (right) are pictured at a funeral of one of the alleged ritual murder victims.

Sowetan 8/8/89

Swoop on activists

1/3

By MATHATHA TSEDU

VENDA police have launched a major crackdown on activists in the homeland following the call for a week-long stay-away, sources in the area said at the weekend.

Day and night raids are being conducted and people are "simply disappearing into police cells", the sources said.

Youths who include pupils and students are the major target of the crackdown, the sources said. The latest to go include student representative council member of the Ramaano Mbulaheni Training College, Thomas Mawela, who was detained at his home at midnight on Friday.

The police have also redetained four Terrorism Act trialists who had been released by the Venda Supreme Court on bail.

The four, who were taken in when they went to the Thohoyandou police station last Tuesday to report, are wellknown poet Tendamudzimu Ratshitanga, Charles Tshitangano, Thinamaano Dau and Tshililo Luvhani.

The police swoop, which started over two weeks ago following protests against ritual killings and the coming independence celebrations, is believed to have netted over 200 people from all over the homeland.

Police Commissioner Lieutenant General T. R. Mulaudzi said last week that the figure of 200 detainees was inflated. He said there were at the time only 25 people detained.

Those detaineed include priests, students, pupils and workers.

One of the ministers is the Reverend Phosiwa who has since been admitted to Siloam hospital.

The others are the Rev Sihlangu and the Rev Rannzwa. Most of the pupils detained are members of the Northern Transvaal Students Organisation (NTSO). Activists believe those being detained will be kept until after the independence celebrations on September 13.

Star 18/8/89

Venda's (113) students are back in class

By Abel Mushi

Students at Venda university resumed classes yesterday morning amid speculation that most schools would continue their boycott in protest against preparations for the 10th anniversay of independence.

Venda gained independence in September 1979.

The university's SRC, accompanied by members of the senate and academic staff, made a request to the Department of Education on Wednesday afternoon to plead with the Department of Justice for the release of detainees.

The university's director of public relations, Mr J M Swart, confirmed yesterday that a delegation had discussions with the Department of Education, but said he could not disclose details.

The student body resolved at a mass meeting held on Wednesday evening to return to classes until Monday while they waited for feedback from the Department of Education.

Meanwhile, most high schools and other academic institutions including the Ramaano Mbulaheni In-Service Training Centre for teachers and training colleges Tshisimani and Makhado, are reported to have stopped their academic activities.

Venda probe issues findings

(113)

Sowetan 28/8/87

THE VENDA GOVERNMENT last week tabled a White Paper on the findings and recommendation of a judicial commission of inquiry into the unrests that erupted last year.

The White Paper blamed the Lutheran Church for allegedly orchestrating rumours of large-scale ritual murder in the homeland in order to cause unrest.

It states that other factors which led to the crisis that culminated in a three-day work stayaway, the resignation of a cabinet minister and widespread school boycott, were:

* Opposition by educated youth, civil servants and churches to the chieftan system.

* The abuse of power through nepotism and extortion.

* The linking of power and richness with medicines made from human organs.

The white paper recommended that:

* The Government takes a long and hard look into the matter of Sharon Mashige, a schoolgirl who was murdered last year, with a view to reopening the case. Five people, including her father and a local MP, had charges of murder against them withdrawn.

VENDA PRAYS

Sowetan 30/8/89.

(113)

THE Lutheran Church in the Northern Transvaal is to have a Prayer Day on September 5 for detainees currently being held in Venda, a church official said this week.

The decision comes only a week after a judicial commission report appointed to investigate last year's disturbances blamed the Lutheran Church for orchestrating the protests.

Three of the church's ministers, including the vice-dean in Thearea, are among the over 120 confirmed detentions. The detainees are held in terms of Section 28 of the Maintenance of Law and Order Act which provides for preventive detention.

The Prayer Day service will be held at the Beuster Mission Church hall and is to start at 9 am.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

At least 66.8 percent of schools in the area are on a boycott, according to the Director for Education, Mr S Makhuvha. The University of Venda is open but students are not attending lectures.

Police have been called in by university authorities to guard those wishing to attend.

The detention followed a call for a stayaway after the disappearance of a Tshakhuma man who was later found dead. *Radio Thoho Ya Ndou* has been repeatedly broadcasting a call by police for anyone with information relating to the death of the Tshakhuma man, Muitwa Mutheiwana, to contact the police.

A reward of R1 000 has been offered.

Churches undertake help detainees

Sowetan 11/9/89

THE Northern Transvaal Council of Churches has undertaken to assist families of detainees in Venda who this week smuggled out a letter in which they said they were starving and being denied medical assistance, an official of the NTCC said in Pietersburg yesterday.

113

By MATHATHA TSEDU

The official said grants would be issued to families to augment food supplied to the detainees. The detainees had said in the letter that food supplied by the state was so bad "even dogs could not eat it".

The NTCC official said the council had briefed attorneys to look into legal options that could be engaged to secure the release of the over 120 detainess currently being held in terms of security legislation.

Meanwhile, as concern over the conditions under which the detainees are being held mounted, an official of the National Union of Mineworker (NUM), one union member and an official of the Mulweli counselling centre in Louis Trichardt, were detained over the weekend in the northern part of the homeland.

They are Edward Mlondobozi based in Phalaborwa, Mr Takalani Mutsila and Mr Macdonald Netshitenzhe.

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W/mail 1-7/9/89.

Independence: Venda protests

By VUSI GUNENE

THE Far Northern Transvaal Crisis Committee has called for a week-long stayaway in protest against the celebrations marking Venda's 10 years of "independence".

In a statement released to the *Weekly Mail*, the committee said the call was made in the wake of on-going detentions of activists and failure by the "homeland" authorities to resolve the mystery of ritual murders in Venda's villages.

Other demands are: the renunciation of independence itself, the withdrawal of troops from villages and campuses and an end to police interference at educational institutions.

The committee, which consists of students, workers and village organisations, "appeal to taxi owners and the bus company not to transport people from September 5 to 12 in protest against the celebrations.

The committee called on people to conduct the stayaway in a "disciplined manner to avoid confrontation with the police".

According to reports from the "homeland", more that 590 people are still being held under Venda's Internal Security Act.

Water shortage

Sowetan 4/9/89

113

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE township of Makhado in Venda has been without water for the past two weeks and residents fear and outbreak of diseases.

Residents said two engines used to pump into a reservoir that supplies the township have broken down leading to the chaotic situation. They said a small quantity of water was released during the day but this was not enough.

"The water can hardly fill up the toilet cistern," one resident said.

Hardest hit by the lack of water are 12 detainees being held at the Dzanani police cells situated in the township who are cooped up in the smelly cells for the whole day and night.

The director general for water affairs in the homeland, Mr J P Ramabulana, confirmed the water shortage but said this was due to draoght. He said the government had imposed water restrictions in the entire Nzhelele valley from August 18 this year.

"We release water during the day from 7.00am to 12.00noon and again from 5pm to 8pm. We have banned watering by hosepipe. This situation was brought about by the lack of rain this year.

"The Nzhelele River has almost dried up and the only place where there is water is Mutshedzi River where the government is building a R60 million dam that will be completed next year," Ramabulana said.

He said one engine used to pump had broken down but one was still functioning. He called on residents to comply with the restrictions.

Held priests in court action

Sowetan 4/9/89 (113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

LAWYERS representing three Lutheran priests detained in Venda have lodged an application in the Venda Supreme Court to challenge the validity of detention orders, it was confirmed at the weekend.

Well-known civil rights lawyer, Mr Krish Naidoo, said papers relating to the application were filed on Thursday. The matter is to be heard in court on Friday at 10am, he said.

The applicants are the church's assistant dean in the Devhula circuit, Mr M P Phosiwa, the Reverend W Sihlangu and the Reverend N Rannzwa. They are among 120 detainees currently being held in the homeland following widespread protests against ritual killings and the forthcoming 10th anniversary of "independence".

They are all being held in terms of Section 28 of the Maintenance of Law and Order Act. It provides for detention without trial for an indefinite period for preventative purposes.

The application is seen as a test case which if successful would mean the annulment of all detention warrants. Relatives of the other detainees are expected to attend the Friday hearing as they may be expected to make oral submissions, Naidoo said.

Meanwhile, tomorrow has been declared Prayer Day in Venda by the Lutheran Church which is to hold prayers at Beuster Mission Church hall for the detainees. The service starts at 9am and church members in the area are expected to attend, according to a senior church official.

Venda inquiry into ritual killings — but little is said of the deaths

WMail 8-14/9/89.

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Venda's people were called to celebrate the 'homeland's independence'. In the wake of the turmoil following ritual killings, residents did not find much to celebrate. By VUSI GUNENE

A REPORT on the inquiry into ritu.. murders in Venda, and the wave of violence and repression that followed, was released to coincide with the "homeland's" 10th anniversary celebrations this week.

However, the long-awaited inquiry into a spate of ritual killings that have plagued Venda for the last two years says little about the murders. Instead it has been used to blame the United Democratic Front, the African National Congress, the South African Communist Party and the South African Council of Churches for the political turmoil in the territory.

Activists in Venda say the report was released to coincide with the "homeland's" celebrations to convince people that "the authorities were addressing the real issues" which plague the territory.

During the past few months many people, particularly Lutheran priests attached to the SACC, have been detained under the "homeland's" Internal Security Act.

According to the report it has been the "aims and methods of the UDF and its affiliates — particularly the South African Youth Congress — to organise action committees which would co-ordinate the work stoppages, street and block committees.

"This is done by persuasion and argument, by posters and pamphlets ... and if all these methods fail, naked threats and intimidation are resorted to. This is known as the M-plan, or Mandela Plan."

The turmoil — which was sparked off by ritual killings in which government ministers were implicated — was, according to the report, a result of "the leading role played by the Lutheran church, especially by a Reverend Netshidavhini".

The report alleges that Netshidavhini, who presided at the funeral of school teacher James Mavhina, "clearly implied that Mavhina was murdered, although reports from the doctors and the post-mortem indicated that he (Mavhina) had committed suicide".

As a result of the speech, the report claims, the Northern Transvaal Youth Congress and the University of Venda's SRC, planned a stayaway from August 16 to 19 last year in which taxi-owners and busdrivers were intimidated not to go to work.

The report was prepared by Venda's chief justice, Mr Justice DHJ le Roux, assisted by two "experienced teams drawn from the South African Police under the leadership of Lieutenant-Colonel NS Coetzee" who provided "a lucid and penetrating review of radical and subversive organisations in the RSA and Venda".

"It must be accepted that the UDF and its affiliates have as one of their prime objectives the destabilisation and eventual destruction of the independent states," the report states.

"In their philosophy there is no room for separate nations, only for the party which rules and the masses who must follow their lead."

In pursuance of this objective, the UDF and its affiliates, "the children and the youth are the main instruments".

The report said the church preached "revolutonary theology".

"These churches give to the violence of the UDF and the ANC the respectability of a 'holy war', thus drawing many idealists into their ranks who would otherwise shun them as militant revolutionaries. The Lutheran Church in Venda falls into this category."

In his findings on repression and brutality of the police the chief justice said one witness, Nevuthali, was called to give evidence. "He is an inveterate opponent of the system and the present establishment and is strongly UDF orientated ... He has certain integrity and *bona fides* but is incapable of passing judgement on situations such as the recent unrest because of his bias and anti-government stance."

Venda celebrates 'independence' with police swoops and people's defiance

By VUSI GUNENE

IN the week Venda celebrated 10 years of independence police conducted pre-dawn raids, sealed off villages and manned roadblocks while students declared the South African National Students Congress unbanned and there were calls for a worker stayaway and a total boycott of the celebrations.

On the eve of the week-long celebrations, police presence at the University of Venda did not deter students from unbanning Sansco.

Amid the call for a boycott of the celebrations by the Northern Transvaal Crisis Committee, the villages of Tshakuma, Tshianda and Shayandima were sealed off by a large contingent of "homeland" and security forces on the eve of the elections. Activists' homes were raided.

A call for a week-long work stayaway was unsuccessful.

Students and residents ignored the celebrations held at the Independence Stadium in Thoho YaNdo because they are angry over the R6-million spent on the celebrations which, they say, could have been used to build educational facilities.

Almost all schools in the villages have been on a two-month class boycott following unsolved ritual murders and the continued detention of activists.

The recent outbreak of unrest in Venda was sparked off by police action when students tried to hold a memorial service in July for James Mavhina who was allegedly ritually murdered last year in Tshakuma.

Last year university and school students then began a boycott of classes. Three weeks later a state of emergency was declared and activists, priests and fieldworkers were detained.

"Almost 90 percent of the detainees have not been released and the number in detention is now well over 600 people," said a priest.

"Repression in the homeland is so rife that detainees are denied access to their lawyers. Police in this area have taken the law into their own hands and are basically running the homeland."

Two weeks ago MacDonald Netshidenzhe, an attorney in Louis Trichardt, was detained while on his way to Venda to consult his client, said the priest.

A teacher at Tshakuma told the *Weekly Mail* that since the outbreak of unrest, the government has been trying to coerce teachers and students into joining the Tshitangu Tsha Philamisevhe (the shield against the arrows of the ANC).

The teacher, Ambrose Nevhathali, said the organisation was established to combat resistance in the homeland.

"Fears are mounting in the villages that this organisation will soon assume the functions of organisations such as Inkatha of Natal and vigilantes in the townships to attack activists and opponents of the homeland system," he said.

Detainees freed, held again

Sowetan 11/9/89

113

FOUR detainees in Venda were released on Friday and immediately re-arrested despite a successful court application challeng-ing their detention orders.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Lutheran church deputy dean for the Devhula circuit, the Reverend M P Phosiwa, the Reverend W Sihlangu, the Reverend N Ranzwa and Mr Gundo Lidovho, filed the application in the Venda Supreme Court two weeks ago.

They said the detention warrants were invalid in that they did not state, among other things, reasons for their detention.

The respondents, the Minister of Justice and the Commissioner of Police, did not oppose the application, thereby conceding that the detainees were right.

Opposition

The four are among more than 150 detainees currently being held in terms of Section 28 of the Maintenance of Law and Order Act.

The detentions followed widespread opposition to ritual killings and the 10th anniversary independence celebrations.

Meanwhile, as the court drama unfolded, a struggle of another kind was going on outside where the festivities got off to a damp start.

Most people boycotted the celebrations.

Despite day-long exhortations by Radio Thohoyandou, which said the main stadium was full, only a handful of people, mainly school-children bussed in from outlying areas, watched the official kick-off of the celebrations.

Although government services, except courts, came to a standstill to allow civil servants to attend the opening ceremony, most stayed at home.

The highlight of the celebrations will be on Wednesday.

Patrick Mphephu

Tshenuwani Farisani

The warning Venda ignored

(113)

Sowetan 13/9/89.

Homeland in turmoil on 10th anniversary

FOCUS

By MATHATHA TSEDU

WHEN Venda celebrated the attainment of "independence" on September 13 1979, a well-known political activist and dean of the Lutheran Church, Tshenuwani Farisani, threw caution to the wind and officiated at the ceremony.

Today Farisani, a former president of the Black People's Convention, is in self-imposed exile after he was brutalised by the Venda police during numerous detentions.

The courageous Farisani told the gathered multitudes on that September day to ask themselves whether the horse they were riding there that day would "pass through the gates of Jerusalem."

Warning

It was a clear warning by this black consciousness activist of old to all that homeland independence was unworkable.

Today, as Venda celebrates 10 years of independence amid large-scale detentions, the incarceration of priests, allegations of ritual killings and allegations of the poisoning of former Life President Patrick Mphephu, many must be remembering Farisani's warning.

Venda today is in turmoil. Where crowds had filled the stadium in 1979 to witness the razzmatazz of independence, a massive boycott of the run-up to the main celebrations today is evident with the empty stands at the renovated stadium.

At least 66.8 percent of all schools were affected by class boycotts at the time of the closure of all schools to facilitate participation in the celebrations. Soldiers were guarding schools and bus stops from political activists and the graffiti brigade.

It is a far cry indeed from the stable and peaceful land that Mphephu used to boast about.

What went wrong? What has turned the independence dream into a nightmare?

The cause must be traced to the origins of the bantustan itself.

When Chief Mphephu formed the Venda Territorial Authority after the breakup of the Shangaan, Northern Sotho and Venda Territorial Board, he threw himself into the hands of the SA Government, co-operating fully with it.

The SA Government, regarded by many as the oppressor, was hated by them. Mphephu's close relations with the SA Government lost him support among the educated elite and also among the ordinary peasantry who found their land holdings shrinking daily.

Block

When the first elections were held, the opposition Venda Independence People's Party swept the boards, winning almost all elected seats. Mphephu, however, used his co-chiefs, who were in the majority, to block the VIP from taking power. This action was to set a pattern that has been followed since.

Of late, with Venda now a one-party State, people are literally refused permission to stand for elections.

In one such case last year, six of the 21 former VIP members stopped from contesting the elections brought an urgent application in the Venda Supreme Court to challenge the decision to bar them.

When the Government realised that it would lose the case, it simply called the prorogued parliament back and changed the law. That amendment, brought in four days before the return date of September 12 1988, was made retroactive to 1986. The case for the applicants was lost in the voting chamber of the House.

Two years after "independence" a deputy minister was arrested for ritual killing following the death of a school principal. He was later hanged.

Then there was Mphephu himself. A maverick traditionalist who had no regard for public opinion, Mphephu ran Venda like his own family. His love for women was common knowledge, leading to a widely publicised wrangle with a jilted lover who spilled the beans and threatened court action.

Jobs for pals, jobs for sex and nepotism were just as widespread as misuse of government property. Corruption was the order of the day. Ordinary people saw all this and grumbled quietly, but Mphephu was feared.

When he died in mysterious circumstances last year, the centre that had held all things in the bantustan together and all opposition in check went with him.

The discontent that had been seething underneath came to the surface when allegations of ritual killings were made against senior government officials.

Revolt

Last year saw the biggest ever revolt when the Sibasa Action Co-ordinating Committee (Sicco), a black consciousness formation in the area, called for a stayaway which paralysed everything.

At the end of the stayaway the former Minister of Justice and holder of three other portfolios, Mr A A Tshivhase, was dismissed in a concession to one of the major demands.

The local police station was attacked by guerrillas of the ANC. In the wake of that attack, many - including Farisani - were detained. Among them was Tshilhiwa Moufhe who died in custody after what police said was a fall from a moving van.

Two years later another detainee, Samuel Tshikhudo, also died in custody.

Since then several guerillas of the ANC have been arrested in the homeland, which borders on Zimbabwe. Two of them escaped in broad daylight from jail last year and two others are presently standing trial.

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Joe Thloloe. Sub-editing, headlines and posters by Sydney Matlhaku. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

• Write to the Editor at PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000. Nom-de-plumes can be used, but full names and addresses should be supplied or the letter will not be published.

police. Medical University of Southern Africa are

CHANGE NOW DE KLERK TOLD

Sowetan 14/9/89

By MATHATHA TSEDU

SOUTH African State President, Mr F W De Klerk, should not wait for pressure from the outside world before implementing the changes that will eventually destroy apartheid.

This was said by the State President of Venda, Headman F N Ravhele, at Thoho-Ya-Ndou yesterday when delivering the main address at the 10th anniversary of independence.

Ravhele said De Klerk had already started a process that will "eventually transform South Africa into one non-racial nation which will bring peace to this subcontinent."

De Klerk should now put into effect the promises he made to the world in his diplomatic manoeuvres in Western Europe and Africa before the general elections," Ravhele said.

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Ravhele also announced a six months reduction in prison terms for certain categories of prisoners. But he did not say anything about the nearly 200 detainees currently being held in terms of security legislation for opposing the independence celebrations.

The celebrations were attended by leaders from the TBVC states, South Africa and Taiwan. Traditional dances, military and police parades entertained the thousands that filled the stadium yesterday.

Venda's unhappy birthday

By VUSI GUNENE

MOST of Venda's residents boycotted the "homeland's" week-long 10th anniversary "independence" celebrations.

Those who did participate in the events in the independence stadium were mainly children from primary schools — which have not been affected by the two-month class boycott — and members of police forces from Venda and other "homelands".

Residents said the call for a total boycott of the celebrations "had received an overwhelming response".

The police continued to man roadblocks at the entrances to villages throughout the "homeland" in an apparent attempt to curb possible disruptions of the celebrations.

A representative of the Far Northern Transvaal Crisis Committee told the *Weekly Mail* "there was no cause to celebrate the anniversary when many were detained and denied access to their families and legal representatives.

"The deepening crisis in the 'homeland' has been inadequately addressed by the authorities and the leaders of the people are either in detention of in hiding."

Meanwhile, hundreds of detainees held under Venda's Internal Security Act had a glimpse of freedom after lawyers successfully applied for their release.

Lawyers last week argued that in terms of Venda's Internal Security Act, an order stipulating the reasons for the detention of a detainee had to be handed to him within 24 hours of his arrest.

None of the detainees had received such an order.

However, soon after the detainees were released, they were redetained and served with new detention orders.

Four people charged with terrorism and two alleged members of the African National Congress' military wing, Umkhonto weSizwe, were among those redetained.

The four had been released on R1 000 bail. They were confined to their homes and had to report to a police station twice a day.

The four were detained while reporting to the police station.

Ravele promoted

(113)

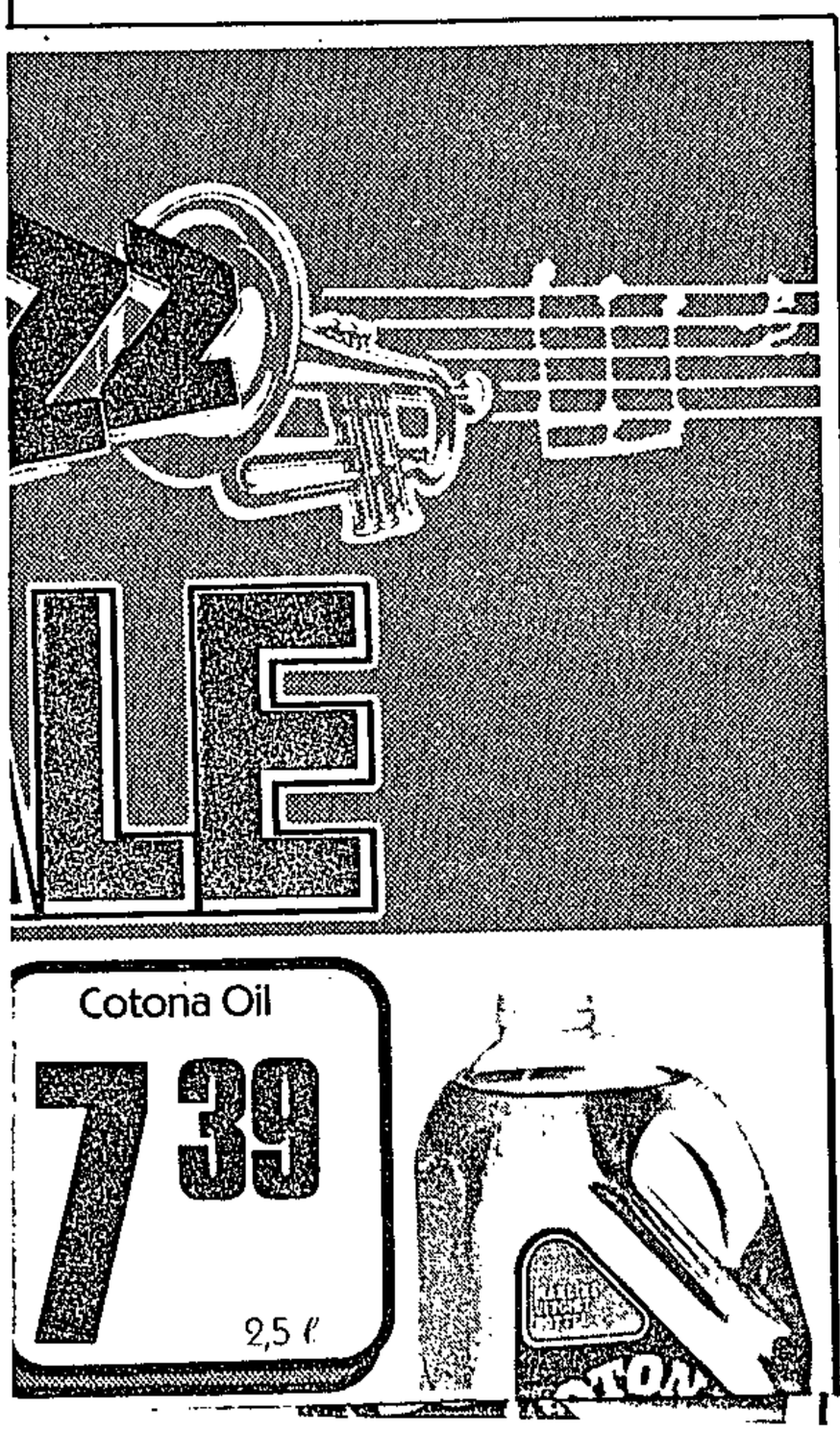
The Venda president, headman Frank Ravele, and four others have been promoted to chiefs, making them automatic members of the homeland's Legislative Assembly for life. Sowetan 27/9/89

Chief Ravele, chief H Musekwa, chief Calvin Mphephu and deputy Health and Welfare Minister chief T T Ramabulana, were crowned on September 15.

6 Venda detainees on hunger strike - claim

Sowetan 28/9/89

113



AT least six hunger-striking detainees being held in Venda are being fed intravenously at the Tshilidzini Hospital, it was disclosed this week.

Information at the disposal of *Sowetan* is that the six, who are part of the over 130 people being held for opposing homeland independence and ritual killings, are refusing food at the hospital.

But Venda Police Commissioner, Lieutenant-General T R Mulaudzi, again denied any knowledge of the hunger strike which started last week and is believed to cover all detention centres. "As far as I know, no-one is on a hunger strike," Mulaudzi said.

The six at Tshilidzini Hospital are Livhuwani Mbedzi - who allegedly collapsed at the Thoho Ya Ndou police cells last Monday, Lufuno Khwashamba, Khathutsheko Nemutanzhela, Ntsieni Netshitomboni, George Phadagi and Solly Thsitangano. They are all on drips at the hospital under strict police surveillance.

'Anti-government'

The detainees are demanding that they be either charged or released. Some have been in detention since July and all are being held in terms of Section 28 of the Maintenance of Law and Order Act.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

The superintendent at Tshilidzini Hospital, a Dr Naude, told *Sowetan* that she had no power to speak about the condition of the detainees.

Detainees at Siloam Hospital were all discharged last week after the superintendent, Dr H Helms, a Dutch immigrant, allegedly told seven detainees there that he did not want them to remain in the hospital because they were "anti-government".

Denials

Dr Helms could not be reached for comment but he told the *Star* last week that this was not true.

Detainees at Tshilidzini said conditions in the police cells were inhumane, with detainees "sometimes using toilet water to wash themselves". They said cells were "overcrowded".

Mulaudzi said food in the cells was "not like that at home. But they are all eating and as far as I know there is nothing wrong".

He said detainees were constantly being charged and added that all those detained would be charged.

He denied that a 13-year-old boy, identified as Eric Mapholi of Ha Mutsha, was being held.

Venda unrest: 300 still in detention

STAR By Dirk Nel, 28/9/89
Northern Transvaal Bureau

THOHOYANDOU — About 300 people, arrested before and during 10th anniversary celebrations in Venda earlier this month, are still in detention.

A church source in Venda yesterday said at least 20 of the detainees began a hunger strike 10 days ago.

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The names of some of the hunger strikers were released yesterday. They are Mr Magwedzha Mphaphuli, the Rev A Rannzwa, the Rev R M Thosiwa, the Rev Aubrey Malindi, Mr Shumani Razwiedani, Mr George Phadagi and Mr Solomon Tshitangano.

No comment could be obtained from the Venda government.

ment on the violence in Owambo because he had not yet received a report on the situation.

The UN could not be reached early today to comment.

Hunger strikers freed

At least 18 hunger-striking detainees held in Venda for the past two months were released without charge on Friday afternoon following concern expressed by several doctors.

Some of the detainees, who had been on a hunger strike for 15 days, were at the weekend still receiving medical treatment at various hospitals.

A large number of youths who have been in detention since July are due to appear in court this week. — Staff Reporter. Star 2/10/89 (113)

The Bookie's Bet

The bookie's bets for Newmarket tomorrow. Best bet — Inner Command, race 2. Best eachway — Minted, race 9.

Restrictions

The Star is being produced under the severe restrictions of the emergency regulations.

Washed in toilet water - Venda detainees claim

(113)

WASHING in toilet water and using lice-infested blankets are among the conditions described by detainees released from custody in Venda at the weekend.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

The detainees, who were released following a two-week hunger strike, said conditions in the cells of the ultra-modern looking Thoyoyandou police station were reported to hospital doctors, but to no avail.

These included:

* 24 detainees sharing three mats and four blankets during cold July.

* Dry taps in the cells, resulting in detainees using toilet water from a bucket to wash.

* Non-functional showers and no soap supplied.

* Blankets infested with lice which, ex-detainees claim, are still in their clothes.

Toilet paper

* Hardly any toilet paper: "When we complained about toilet paper the police told us to clean ourselves by washing as the Indians do," they said.

* Sharing a cell with common-law prisoners, one of whom assaulted detainees at will: "When we told the police they did nothing. He (the prisoner) was even armed and he hoarded blankets and mats," the ex-detainees complained.

Ex-detainees allege they were given "very little food, consisting of beans and porridge". Complaints were disregarded and the stock answer was that qualified dieticians had approved the meals, they said.

And, detainees held at the police-base Makwarela were treated by police medical corps trainees, who damaged the hand of one captive when trying to insert a drip. He was punctured five times without success and then taken to hospital.

Another detainee who was successfully connected to a drip had the same needle left in him for days. As a result his hand swelled horribly before he was taken to Tshilidzini hospital, the detainees said.

The allegations were yesterday put to the Commissioner of Venda police, lieutenant-general T R Mulaudzi.

He said doctors had raised the same issues with the police at an emergency meeting on Friday to discuss the hunger strike and health conditions in police cells.

Report

He said a commission appointed on Friday reported back to him yesterday. In terms of their report, the food was good and was prepared by hired labourers.

He said detainees were given soft porridge, buttered bread and tea with milk for breakfast, and porridge and beef or chicken for lunch and supper.

He said showers at all police stations were found to be in good order, adding that due to drought, water was sometimes not available all over the homeland.

On sharing cells with common-law prisoners, gen Mulaudzi said he could not comment as this was new to him. He requested further particulars in order to investigate the matter further.

Fine reduced

A PORT Shepstone woman's R200 fine for shoplifting was reduced to R50 on review in the Maritzburg Supreme Court yesterday.

Zamani Prisca Xolo was convicted of stealing a pair of panties worth R5.99 from Checkers Margate in May this year.

Helpless teacher beaten to death

By ALINAH DUBE

A SOSHANGUVE inquest magistrate yesterday heard that a Garankuwa teacher lay helplessly on the ground as a group of white men, including policemen, assaulted him.

Eye-witness Mr Reuben Phora was testifying about the assault which led to the death of Mr Johannes Putswa Mokgotsi on December 13 1986 in Sinnoville.

dragged him out and started assaulting him. He was joined by a group of other men, one of whom hit him with a baton," Phora said.

"The other doors of our car were also opened and we were dragged out. I was kicked and assaulted with fists."

(Proceeding)

Bank workers organise

THE Banking, Insurance, Finance and Assurance Workers' Union (Bifawu) has signed a recognition agreement with Medicate Administrators in Johannesburg.

This agreement ends a protracted five-year strug-

Detainees criticise poor cell conditions

Star 5/10/89 (113)

Own Correspondent

Washing in toilet water and having to use lice-infested blankets are among the conditions described by detainees released from custody in Venda at the weekend.

Detainees released following a two-week hunger strike alleged conditions in the cells of the Thohoyandou police station included:

- No running tap water, resulting in detainees using toilet water from a bucket to wash.
- A shortage of toilet paper.
- Detainees had to share a cell with common-law prisoners.

The allegations were put to the Commissioner of Venda police, Lieutenant-General T R Mulaudzi, this week.

He said showers at all police stations were found to be in good order but, due to drought, water was at times in short supply thoughout the homeland.

On sharing cells with common-law prisoners, he requested further particulars.

Releases not due to hunger strike, says police chief

Star 5/10/89 (113)

By Dirk Nel, Northern Transvaal Bureau

THOHOYANDOU — Venda Commissioner of Police Lieutenant-General T R Mulaudzi has denied claims that detainees were released this week because of hunger strikes.

"The law has simply run its course. Most of the detainees, held initially in terms of Section 28 of the Internal Security Act, have been released or charged."

General Mulaudzi said the Venda Minister of Justice had signed warrants on Monday for the release of 78 people held under Section 28.

The same day, 67 were charged with various offences, including public violence, malicious damage to property and incitement to violence.

On Tuesday, nine people appeared in court on various charges. Another 33 are due to be charged today. The detentions occurred after anti-independence protests in Venda.

113 WMail

Hunger strikers isolated. Venda protesters freed

By VUSI GUNENE

THE government's decision to transfer hunger strikers to Grootvlei Prison in the Orange Free State has been condemned as an attempt to isolate the protesters and discourage others from joining in.

The Human Rights Commission says the ruling by the minister of law and order has also made the monitoring of the number of hunger strikers — and their conditions — increasingly difficult.

United Democratic Front executive member Titus Mafolo — who suspended his hunger strike this week — is the latest detainee to have been moved to Grootvlei. According to lawyers acting for him, Mafolo had survived on liquids for 12 days.

The lawyers also said they were preparing applications for his release or transfer to Pretoria Central Prison on the grounds that he had suspended his hunger strike.

Meanwhile in the Venda "homeland", 17 hunger strikers and more than 80 Emergency detainees have been released since last week.

Hunger strikers who were detained under Venda's internal security legislation were released on the 14th day of their strike.

Among those set free was Fanuel Mphaphuli, a fieldworker for the Far Northern Transvaal Council of Churches, who had been admitted to hospital suffering from diabetes.

Also released was National Union of Mineworkers' organiser in Phalaborwa, Edward Mlondolodzi, and union member Evans Nhubunga.

According to lawyers, several students released in Venda this week have been served with charges, including intimidation and incitement.

George Malindi, who was recently released from detention in Venda, said the conditions were "appalling", and alleged that prison authorities withheld a range of facilities.

These included, according to Malindi: reading matter; access to doctors, families, magistrates or lawyers; food of an acceptable quality; and adequate space in cells.

In addition, he claimed, cells were without proper facilities for washing or exercise. He said requests for hospital visits were only acceded to after prisoners embarked on the hunger strike.

6-12/10/89

SOWETAN
Building the Nation
TUESDAY OCTOBER 31 1989 LATE FINAL All areas 50c (44c + 6c GST)

Top official 'cleared' even before start of his trial

'WHITEWASH'

Sowetan 31/10/89

(113)

THE suspended Director-General for Venda Intelligence who was charged with the ritual murder of a two - year - old boy has been absolved of the crime by the homeland's Chief Justice even before the start of his trial.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Mr Theophilus Motshaeni (54) and six other people are to appear in the Venda Supreme Court tomorrow for the murder of Gundo Nemakhavhani last year.

But in a report submitted to Venda's president two months ago following an inquiry into the causes of last year's unrest, Chief Justice J D H le Roux said evidence against Motshaeni was "flimsy" and "contradictory". He added that no "prima facie case exists" against Motshaeni.

Justice Le Roux said the commission could find "no evidence that the police and the Attorney General were at fault in any way in the handling of this case... (and) no question of protection of a high official arises."

Mutshaeni was charged on August 2 this year after the Attorney General ordered that he be joined

• To page 2

P.T.O.

Thugs slay third tycoon

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

WELL-known Soweto socialite and shebeen king Mr Chris Kubheka was shot dead by unknown gunmen at the weekend

Ritual murder case report error

(113) Sowetan 2/11/89

THE Chief Justice of Venda, Judge D J H le Roux, yesterday called in *Sowetan* reporter Mathatha Tsedu to his chambers at the Venda Supreme Court in Thohoyandou to complain about an article which was published on Tuesday.

The article dealt with a report submitted by Judge le Roux to Venda's president regarding investigations into ritual murders, corruption and causes of unrest in the homeland last year.

The report dealt with, among others, the alleged involvement of the now suspended director general for intelligence, Mr Theophilus Mutshaeni, in the ritual murder of a two-year-old boy.

Mutshaeni is standing trial for the murder.

Justice le Roux said in his report that evidence against Mutshaeni was "flimsy" and "contradictory" and formed no basis for a "prima facie case" against the former director general.

In his complaint to *Sowetan* yesterday, Justice le Roux said his report was compiled in June this year before Mutshaeni was charged.

He said the article in *Sowetan* "was misleading in that the heading, the sub title and the first paragraph create the impression that I was interfering in a pending prosecution by pre-judging the case before it came to trial and that I was attempting to protect the official concerned."

Pointing out that Mutshaeni was only charged in August after his report had been published and debated in the Venda parliament, Judge le Roux said "new evidence against Mutshaeni might have come to light subsequently which induced the police and the attorney general to prefer charges against him.

"It was my mandate to investigate the actions of the police in investigating ritual murders, and because Mutshaeni had been mentioned by the other accused, I had to deal with the allegations in my report," he said, adding that he would not preside over the criminal case in which Mutshaeni and six other people are being prosecuted.

Sowetan regrets any erroneous impression that might have been created by the non-inclusion of the fact that the report was published before Mutshaeni was charged.

The case was post- to February 12 next year.

Venda may opt for incorporation

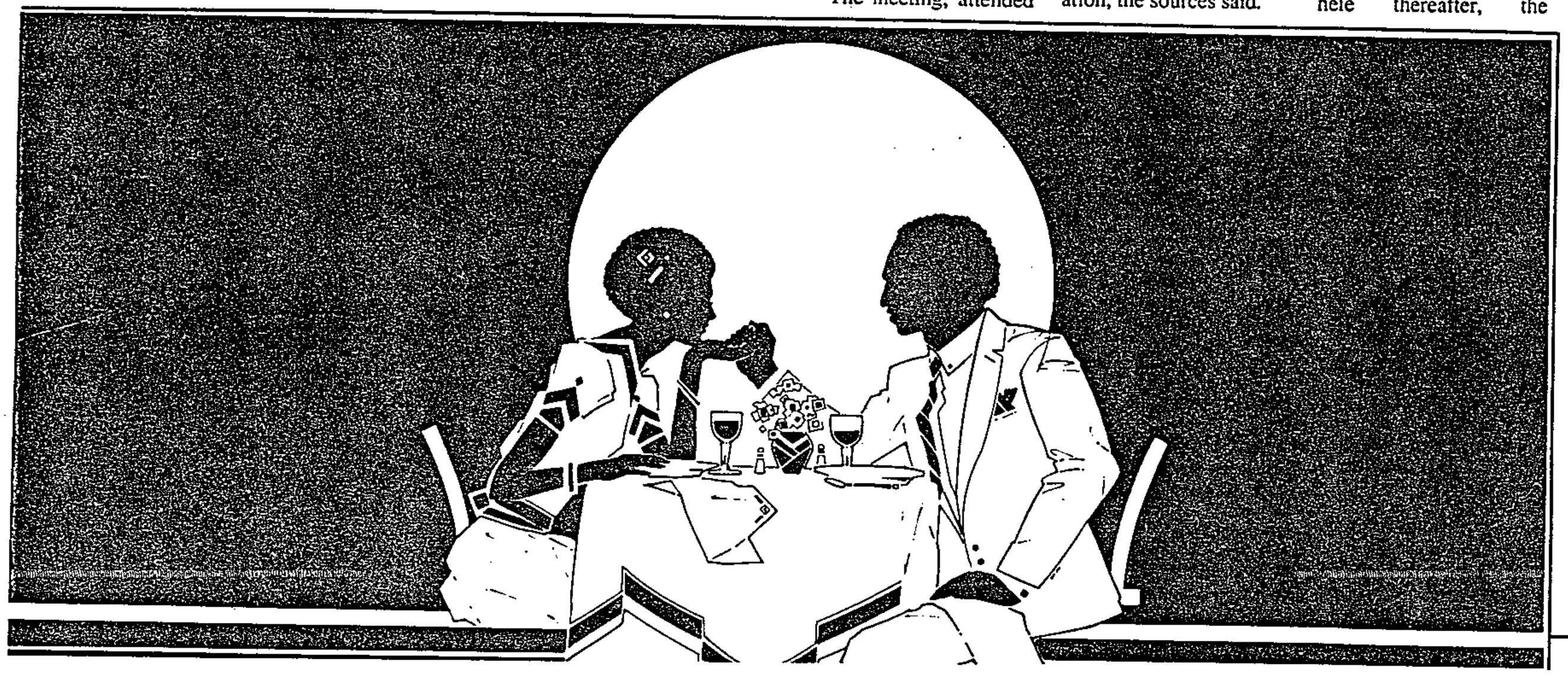
SENIOR bureaucrats of Venda met at the capital Thohoyandou last week to discuss options relating to the possible scrapping of the independent homeland, highly reliable sources have revealed.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

The meeting, attended by all directors general except one, delegated some of them to study constitutional alternative such as a unitary state, confederation and federation, the sources said.

The group was to have met again last Friday where reports were to be tabled and discussed. Recommendations will then be made to the political leadership and a statement is expected from President FN Ravhele thereafter, the sources added.

The move, which comes in the wake of Transkei strongman General Bantu Holomisa's announcement that he was considering renouncing independence, is motivated by a realisation that moves by President FW De Klerk to hold talks with liberation movements would lead to the demise of their homelands.



Homeland

The status of homeland in De Klerk's often quoted new South Africa has become a focus of attention. Constitutional Development Minister Mr Gerrit Viljoen is presently on a shuttled of all homeland capitals explaining the government's position.

After one such meeting at Phuthaditjhaba in Qwaqwa, Viljoen said the question of dismantling the quasi-independent state would be decided by those states themselves.

Sowetan 20/11/89

Venda rethinks 'independence'

C Times 23/4/89 (113)

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

VENDA is reconsidering its status as an "independent state" and could join Transkei in asking to be re-admitted to South Africa.

The Venda government has not yet taken a decision on the issue, but a high-powered inquiry is studying constitutional alternatives which could directly affect its status as an independent homeland.

Transkei has also not yet taken any decisions on its independent status, but a government committee is investigating whether a referendum on the issue could be held and how it should be conducted.

That the military government in Transkei is considering lifting the ban on the ANC and PAC and has permitted a mass rally to be addressed this weekend by former political prisoner and ANC leader Mr Walter Sisulu are indications that it supports ending the homeland's independence.

If both homeland governments did decide to negotiate their re-entry into South Africa and renounce their independence — which is not internationally recognised — only Bophuthatswana and Ciskei would be left as independent homelands.

Venda lecturers want to resign

Sowetan 1/12/89

(113)

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

TWENTY lecturers at the University of Venda are to resign at the beginning of next year because their salaries are being frozen for three years, student leaders have claimed.

The university authorities however, while confirming that 20 lecturers had resigned, denied that salaries had been frozen. The deputy rector, Prof V N Ralushai, said the 20 had resigned since the beginning of the year.

Some had found better employment elsewhere while others had resigned for personal reasons. He said there were now 34 vacancies at the university: ten new posts, four posts which had never been filled, and the 20.

House

But Student Representative Council members claim that lecturers had come to them "in tears" about their salaries.

"There is no doubt that the salaries are to be frozen. This was a recommendation of a government select committee which found that lecturers here were overpaid," the SRC members said in a statement.

The select committee referred to, which also ordered that a house bought for use by the rector at Louis Trichardt should be sold, recommended that an investigation be instituted into the salary scales. If those paid at Univen were found to be higher than those paid at other black universities, the committee recommended that they be frozen for a period.

Prof Ralushai said he was aware of the committee's recommendation. But he said the government had not at any stage indicated that it would be implemented. He said the resignations were not abnormal.

Students on the other hand said the resignations would lower the standard of education and criticised the freezing of salaries.

"The resignations will lead to unqualified and inexperienced people flocking to our institution and lowering the standard of education. Otherwise there will be a shortage of lecturers. The SRC condemns whoever it is who froze the lecturers' salaries." the statement added.

R15-m 'lost' by Lebowa officials

CP Correspondent

(113)

THE De Meyer Commission of Inquiry into the alleged misappropriation of funds and defrauding of the Lebowa Government, this week discovered that R15 million was withdrawn from the government account and possibly misused by some top officials.

3/12/89

According to R Letsoalo, former senior clerk in the Education Department, in 1987 he requested R15 million from the government accountant.

The money was used to buy an undisclosed number of books from undisclosed suppliers. This made it impossible for anyone to check.

At one stage, Letsoalo signed a R3 million requisition for "basic school stationery".

The preliminary findings of the commission have already led to the resignation of the former Deputy Minister of Commerce Derrick Kobe.

Teachers' cheques bounce

Sowetan 5/12/89

(113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

BANKS in Pietersburg last week dishonoured salary cheques for teachers and other officials of the Lebowa government due to insufficient funds.

The media relations chief for the homeland, Mr Serobi Maja denied that the Lebowa government, presently a subject of inquiry into the disappearance of R98-m, faced a financial crisis.

He said the cheques could have been dishonoured for technical reasons. He urged all the affected people to redeposit their cheques.

But teachers said cheques submitted to African Bank and Standard Bank were rejected last week. They said their December salaries, normally paid out when schools close in early December, had been witheld due to lack of funds.

A white contractor who was paid about R2000 last week went back to the works department fuming after the cheque was rejected by a bank, officials said. The sources said the Lebowa government account had been overdrawn by R18-m. The sources said the Gazankulu government had been approached to assist with money to pay civil servants.

Maja said it was "no secret" that there had been "a serious underfunding of the departments of health and education." Negotiations with the South African Government were underway to rectify the situation, he said.

He denied that the government had a bank overdraft of R18-m. He also denied that Lebowa had requested Gazankulu for financial assistance. "It should be mentioned that the Lebowa government at times assists Gazankulu with the printing of cheques," he added.

Maja said December salary cheques for teachers would be sent to them later this month. He said they were previously given postdated cheques when schools closed. The change had nothing to do with the unavailability of funds, he said.

The homeland's legislative assembly is to meet on Thursday to discuss revised expenditures, Maja announced.

Blasts hit Venda buildings (113)

STAR 23/12/89.

THOHOYANDOU — Three limpet mine blasts damaged sections of Venda government buildings yesterday.

Details were not immediately clear, but a correspondent said one blast caused severe damage to the Department of Finance building.

The second and third blasts destroyed the Inland Revenue office and smashed the windows of a nearby furniture store.

Thohoyandou police station commander, a Major Murulale, said the first blast was apparently aimed at the police station but, because of the way the mine was placed, damaged the Finance building nearby.

"It was aimed at us. We were told on Tuesday we would receive this and we got it." — Sapa.

Cape Times

Venda blasts rock govt buildings

113

THOHOYANDOU, Venda. — Three separate limpet mine blasts blew up sections of Venda government buildings yesterday.

A first blast at about 12,15pm resulted in severe damage to the Department of Finance. The second and third blasts apparently destroyed the Inland Revenue office. The force of the explosions smashed the windows of a nearby furniture store.

Damage is estimated at thousands of rands.

A spokesman for the Thohoyandou police said the first blast was apparently aimed at the police station, but, because of the way the mine was placed, damaged the finance building nearby.

"Residents of Thohoyandou's Golgotha section have been told there are four limpet mines that are to be detonated today. We are checking, but do not know where they have been put", the spokesman said. — Sapa

HOMELANDS — VENDA — GENERAL

1990

Witchcraft claims spark Venda unrest

By MATHATHA TSEDU

TENSION has gripped vast areas of Venda following widespread anti-witchcraft student demonstrations which have left several people dead and a Cabinet Minister stoned. Sowetan 31/1/90

Schooling in the Sibasa, Phiphidi and Venda areas has come to a halt in the wake of turbulence that started more than a week ago and reached a climax on Monday with hundreds of people marching in the streets of the capital, Thohoyandou.

Deputy police commissioner Major General N J Leshi confirmed that there was widespread unrest in the homeland and that the Minister of Land Tenure and Local Government, Chief M M Mphaphuli, was stoned at a meeting at Mbilwi, near Sibasa, on Sunday afternoon.

Set alight

(113)

Leshi said allegations of witchcraft were behind the unrest. He said this had led to the death in the last two weeks of two old men. They are Mr Ramukhwatho James Ndou (60) of Mulenzhe, who was stoned to death, and Mr Mulimisi Albert Manyaga (41) of Muledane, who was doused with petrol and set alight. The men were accused of allegedly turning two villagers into 'zombies'.

A Mr Eric Radzilani, whom residents claim had been turned into a 'zombie', was stabbed in the Phidi village at the weekend. A Mr Makhavu, whom they claim was responsible, has since gone into hiding.

Makhavu yesterday told a *Sowetan* reporter that his

● To page 2

Witchcraft unrest

Sowetan 31/1/90

● From page 1 (113)

houses had been razed and said that more than 10 hectares of corn and fruit were destroyed in the attack.

Chief Mphaphuli was attending a meeting at Mbilwi on Sunday at which an alleged accomplice in a ritual murder of an old woman more than a year ago was testifying. It has been alleged that the chief was involved in the murder and that the head of the woman was in his house.

Youths at the meeting threw stones at Mphaphuli after he tried to explain his innocence, eye witnesses said. An alleged self-confessed accomplice was seriously injured when he too was attacked by the angry crowd.

Sources in the area yesterday said the situation was tense with police patrolling the streets.

'Witchhunt': 5 die in Venda

Sowetan 5/2/90

113

By MATHATHA TSEDU

FIVE people were hacked to death in Venda on Wednesday and Thursday last week in the continuing anti-witchcraft unrest in the homeland, Venda police commissioner Lieutenant General TR Mulaudzi confirmed at the weekend.

Bands of youths on a witch-hunt spree are killing and destroying houses, cars and other property in many areas of the homeland, Mulaudzi said.

He said the unrest was continuing but details of weekend incidents were not available. At least 35 youths were arrested at Midoroni, Senthumule, after an attack on the home of an Apostolic Faith Mission Church priest. He identified three of the dead as Mrs Takalani Sithala (68) and Mr Johannes Tshinavha (70), both of Lwamondo Village about 20 kilometres from Sibasa, and a priest of the Zion Christian Church, Mr Frank Mavhusha of Ha-Makhuvha, who was killed on Wednesday.

Mulaudzi said two people who had not yet been identified were killed on Thursday at Mapate Village and Itshani Village near Shayandima.

The Northern Transvaal Students Organisation has called on pupils to return to classes following the disruption of schooling.

3 more slain in Venda witch-hunt

THREE people were stoned and hacked to death in a resurgence of the anti-witchcraft killings which have now claimed at least 18 lives in Venda. (113)

Sources in the homeland said youths chanting ANC slogans and brandishing its flags had also allegedly burned 11 houses in separate incidents in various areas. All the incidents occurred on Tuesday night, a day after massive political protests spearheaded by the UDF. Sowetan 15/2/90

Deputy police commissioner Major General NJ Leshi confirmed that one of the burning incidents involved an MP, Mr J Dzhalagome of Ngwenani. Three of his huts were razed. Dzhalagome is out on bail pending his trial for ritual murder.

The dead include another ritual murder suspect also on bail, from Ngwenani. He is Mr Ndishavhelafhi Reckon Ndou, who was killed yesterday

● To page 2

Meanwhile, Mandela ... interviews to foreign and local journalists.

3 more killed in strife-torn Venda

(113) Sowetan 15/2/90

● From page 1

morning, Leshi said.

The other two are Mrs Christina Nemakhavhani (60) of Maungani and Mr Khomokwe Frans Mulaudzi (78) of Tshimbupfe.

Leshi denied reports that the house of President Frank Ravhele had been petrol-bombed.

The killings started over three weeks ago and reached a peak last week when over 10 people were killed in three days on allegations of witchcraft.

The ANC flag was prominently raised at the funeral of a man who had been stabbed to death and later alleged to have been turned into a zombie. The burial took place three weeks after the man's death and was ordered by a sangoma who told the villagers he would raise the man from the "dead" only after he had been buried.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa has condemned the killings and endorsed the call by the Northern Transvaal Students Organisation and the Azanian People's Organisation branch in the area for a halt to the "senseless killings". A peace rally is to be held at Sibasa on Saturday.

Another death in Venda strife

ONE more person has been killed in Venda in continuing violence that has claimed the lives of 19 people alleged to be either witches or involved in ritual murders. Sowetan 16/2/90

Police commissioner Lieutenant General TR Molaudzi identified the man as Mr William Mathabi of Pfumbada. He was stabbed to death by a mob of youths. (113)

Molaudzi said five incidents of arson were reported during Wednesday night.

Return to school - NTSO

113

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Northern Transvaal Student Organisation (NTSO) yesterday called on students in trouble-torn Venda to return to classes and wage the anti-witchcraft campaign from there. Sowetan 1/2/90

In a statement issued yesterday, NTSO said witchcraft was a scourge that needed to be eradicated. "But we should do so without jeopardizing our schooling," it said. "We need to educate people to desist from such useless and barbaric tendencies."

The organisation urged students to return to classes immediately. "We do not want to see a repeat of last year when so many of our students failed matric," the organisation said.

Meanwhile the director general for education in Venda, Mr W R Khuba, said yesterday the class boycott was due to intimidation and reiterated the call for a return to classes.

Deputy police commissioner Major General N J Leshi said yesterday that "leftist" activists were orchestrating allegations of witchcraft to pursue political ends. He said none of the numerous cases of alleged 'zombies' and ritual killings had as yet been proven.

The allegations included a claim that the Minister of Land Tenure and Local Government, Chief M M Mphaphuli, had been involved in a ritual murder three years ago.

Witch-hunt mounts in Venda

113

By MATHATHA TSEDU

VENDA President Chief Frank Ravele yesterday received a briefing from the Commissioner of Police on the anti-witchcraft unrest in the homeland which has left at least 14 people dead and more than 100 houses burnt. Sowetan 7/2/90

The dead include an 11-year-old girl who was shot while running away from a police attack on people at Dzingahe village, according to residents. Police commissioner Lieutenant General TR Molaudzi said the girl, Joyce Bongwe, was shot when police opened fire during an ambush by villagers.

Molaudzi said the 14 people were killed in separate incidents in various areas. The others include: Mr Andries Maphaha and Mr Madazhe Tshikororo - both of Itsani village near Shayandima, Mr Edward Nevondo and Johannes Muilavhathu, both of Mapate village near Itsani (all of whom were killed on Thursday), Mr Jutas Tshiphari of Tshitavha village at Sambandou, who was stoned and hacked to death on Friday afternoon, and school principal Mr Samuel Daswa of Mbahe village.

Daswa was stoned to death on Saturday after allegedly refusing to donate money to finance a visit to a *sangoma* who was to snuff out witches in the village.

And, as the witch-hunt continued with students still staying away from schools in some areas, tension

● To page 2

Witch-hunt in Venda

113

Sowetan 7/2/90

● From page 1

increased among activists in the area who expressed fears that the police were planning a swoop.

Houses, cars, furniture and in some cases and whole orchards have been damaged in the escalating violence sparked by allegations of ritual killings and the existence of zombies.

People interviewed expressed concern that whole villages were searching mountains and forests for alleged zombies.

A group of concerned residents in Sibasa were yesterday planning to meet to discuss the crisis.

Residents said they planned to approach various churches to intervene.

Mulaudzi said yesterday morning that police had dispersed various meetings on Sunday which were discussing the issue.

He said a Venda Defence Force member was ambushed, disarmed and robbed of his vehicle at Dzingahe on Saturday.

The soldier escaped unhurt.

Police reinforcements who went to the village that evening were also ambushed, he said.

The shot that killed Joyce was fired during the ambush, he said.

But villagers said police had gone on a rampage, hitting people at random.

Mulaudzi was not available for comment by yesterday afternoon to verify the allegations.

A policeman in his office said he was meeting Ravele.

Talks to end killings

113

PRIESTS and other community leaders from Venda were last night locked in talks about the ongoing unrest which has so far claimed the lives of at least 14 people and disrupted schooling in the homeland.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

The meeting was held at Louis Trichardt, outside the homeland, for fear of police disruption, according to one of the organisers. The meeting came as pupils from many areas who have been involved in the unrest returned to their schools today. Others in Sibasa and nearby areas are still staying away.

The homeland president, Chief Frank Ravele, on Tuesday met about 150 priests from all over the homeland to discuss the unprecedented mayhem. He called for a special day of prayer and said Christians should speak out against witchcraft.

Police Commissioner Lieutenant General TR Mulaudzi yesterday said no incidents of violence had been reported for 24 hours. He expressed the hope that the destruction of lives and property had come to an end.

Priests who met Ravele on Tuesday accused the homeland Police Force of brutality and wanted to know when the 'independent' homeland would be reincorporated into South Africa.

Sources who attended the meeting said Ravele replied that while the future of the homeland would be decided in conjunction with the inhabitants, his government had already made a deal with South Africa. Ravele however refused to disclose the contents of the deal, the source said.

STAR 13/2/90 (113)

Venda marks release

Pretoria Correspondent

In Thohoyandou, the capital of Venda, virtually all the shops in the CBD had to be closed after widespread rioting by students celebrating the release of Mr Nelson Mandela, according to reports.

A Thohoyandou resident, Mrs Liesl Wasserthal, said students from the University of Venda and local high schools had called a week-long stay-away and were preventing people from going to work.

She said business in the capital had come to a standstill after students had "intimidated" shopowners into closing their stores.

White residents, in fear of their lives, were preparing to seek shelter in the South African Embassy, she said.

An embassy spokesman said nobody had asked for shelter.

"There have been marches, as can be expected, but the situation is not out of control."

Move to end riots over 'muti' killings

Sowetan 15/2/90

113

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Far Northern Transvaal branch of Azapo is to hold a peace rally in Sibasa, Venda, on Saturday as part of its efforts to stop the anti-witchcraft riots that have left at least 14 people dead.

Azapo branch chairman Mr Thivhilaeli Mutobvu said the rally, to be held at the Roman Catholic Church in Makwarele, would also look at the importance of education in the welfare of the community.

The organisation will also launch its campaign to force the reincorporation of the "independent" homeland into South Africa.

Mutobvu said: "We see the problem of witchcraft as emanating from the deliberate policy over the real government of this country to under-educate black people.

"We are therefore also going to look at the political implications of the existence of such structures as homelands in line with our policy that South Africa is a unitary state."

He called on parents, youths and teachers from villages affected by the recent wave of witchcraft killings and even those who were not affected to attend the rally.

The rally follows demostrations early this week during which a United Democratic Front-inspired memorandum calling for the dissolution of the homeland was handed to the Venda Government.

Department of Information director general Mr L Ramaboya said yesterday the demands were to have been discussed at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday but the outcome is not yet known.

President's secretary Mr L Lidovho, was said to be unavailable for comment.

Other demands in the petition include a call for all departments to be placed under Pretoria government immediately.

President Ravele is expected to outline Venda's position on reincorporation when he opens the Venda National Assembly on March 23 this year.

Venda bans 'witchcraft' meetings

(113)

Sowetan 19/2/90.

THE Venda Government banned all meetings to discuss witchcraft unrest and swooped on activists at the weekend amid allegations that some of those detained have been severely beaten by police.

The ban on meetings, announced by justice minister Chief JR Rambuda on Friday, scuttled the first attempts by the Azanian People's Organisation to involve members of the public in attempts to halt the unrest which has now claimed at least 20 lives.

Police and army units confronted a crowd of Azapo and Azayo members at Makwarela where the peace rally was to have been held at the weekend.

Heavily-armed security forces surrounded the hall and ordered people to disperse. At least two people, a teacher and member of the steering committee of the Black Educationist Convention, Mpho Tsedu and Shonisani Mutobvu, were detained.

Shonisani is the younger brother of Azapo branch chairman Thivhilaeli Mutobhu, who had just been released in the morning. He spent the previous night in the police cells following a raid at their home on Friday evening.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Shonisani told the Sowetan earlier that he had spent the Friday night with at least 30 activists from Khubvi and Makonde villages at the Thohoyandou police station.

Detainees

He said the detainees had been brutalised and some could not even walk.

Sowetan then visited the home of one of the named activists, Tshilidzi Phaswana (23) at Makonde. Phaswana's younger brother, Samson (19) said a large police contingent had raided their home the previous evening looking for his brother. They had not found him, he said.

Samson said the police assaulted him with open hands, fists and rifle butts. He showed the wounds to reporters. Other family members confirmed the incidents and said the assaults were unprovoked.

Phaswana and the other detainees were arrested at Khubvi where a night vigil was in progress for the Saturday burial of a university of Venda student and ANC member, Khwathelani Mathagu, who died after falling from a truck which was returning from a Mandela celebration rally at Thohoyandou rally last week.

Shonisana said Phaswana was in great pain with open wounds on his back, mouth and leg. Phaswana told Shonisani that he and the other detainees were tortured at a Venda Defence Force base at Sibasa.

They were allegedly stripped naked, made to sit on the floor with legs spread out while cold water was repeatedly poured over them, Shonisani said.

Police Commissioner Lieutenant-General TR Mulaudzi could not be reached for comment yesterday. He has, however, consistently denied allegations of police brutality.

Venda sealed off — SACC

(113)

Cpt Times 22/2/90

JOHANNESBURG. — Venda has been sealed off and many people are believed to have died in clashes between the security forces and nationals, the South African Council of Churches (SACC) claimed yesterday.

The clashes followed a rally called to celebrate the release of Mr Nelson Mandela, the SACC said.

It claimed security forces had fired teargas on the elderly and that several people had been detained.

Meanwhile, police report that nine people — including five policemen — have been injured in incidents at Megheleng, near Ficksburg, and Elim, near Louis Trichardt.

A minibus and a school at Megheleng were stoned, according to the unrest report. Four policemen and a girl were injured by the crowd.

Police used teargas and birdshot to disperse the gathering, but no injuries were reported as a result of the police action, the report said.

At Elim, a vehicle was damaged and a policeman struck on the head by stones hurled by youths.

Police used teargas and birdshot to disperse the crowd. A man was injured and four others were arrested. Two other men were injured by the crowd.

Police teargassed a crowd burning old vehicles and municipal refuse bins at Utlwanang, near Christiana.

At Masikane, near Jamestown, police used teargas to disperse a crowd which stoned police and started a veld fire. — Sapa

Magistrates spark crisis for Venda govt

CAPE TIMES 24/2/90

(113)

THOHOYANDOU. — The Venda government was in the grip of a major crisis yesterday as civil servants went on strike over salaries and the entire administration came to a halt.

Magistrates' courts, schools, post offices and other government sectors were at a standstill with clerks and other officials gathered at the Makwarela Stadium in Sibasa.

The root of the unprecedented action is the announcement last week of new salary scales for senior government officials ranging from 44% for deputy-directors general and 28% for directors general, to 8% for magistrates, according to observers.

The crisis began on Monday when magistrates and prosecutors at Thohoyandou staged a sit-in to protest against the "disproportionate increases".

Magistrates in other districts joined in on Tuesday.

A spokesman for the Magistrates' Association of Venda said this action brought the administration of justice throughout Venda to a standstill, leaving many awaiting-trial prisoners stranded in police cells.

Telecommunications staff joined in the strike on Wednesday and by Thursday all departments had stopped work.

The spokesman said the published increases applied only to officials down to directors. Chief clerks and others below that rank, including technicians and teachers, were not included.

Reacting Acting President Chief Andries Madzivhandila said yesterday that the government would look into staff complaints.

He said all categories of workers would eventually be covered when funds permitted, and appealed to all workers to return to their posts.

Workers rejected his explanation, however, and instead gathered at the stadium yesterday to draft new demands for all sectors. — Sapa

Crackdown on protests

7 killed, many hurt in clashes with police

Staff Reporters

Seven people have been killed and scores injured in clashes with police in the past four days.

Yesterday, a 10-year-old child and a youth were killed and five people were injured in Maokeng township near Kroonstad when municipal police fired on a crowd of 20 000 residents.

They were marching to the town council offices to demand the reinstatement of 700 dismissed municipal workers.

At least two people were killed and about 17 injured in Thlabane, Rustenburg, on Sunday when Bophuthatswana police opened fire on a crowd of about 8 000 residents calling for the homeland's re-incorporation into South Africa.

2 die in stampede

Two youths died in Ha-Kutama, Venda, on Saturday when police used teargas to disperse a large crowd at a rally to celebrate Mr Nelson Mandela's release, causing a stampede.

At Thohoyandou, the capital, another youth died when police intercepted a bakkie carrying youths on their way to hand a list of demands to the Venda Department of Education, an eyewitness said.

One youth jumped off the bakkie, landing heavily on the road, and was arrested. He later died, the source said.

It is not known whether his death was caused by the fall.

The other youths escaped.

The latest deaths bring to at least 17 the number of people who have died in Venda during the past month.

In the confrontation in Kroonstad between police and residents demanding the reinstatement of dismissed workers, Pule Rabanye (10) and George Makitla (18) were killed.

Five others were admitted to Boitumelo Hospital.

A police spokesman said last night the municipal police had been forced to open fire when part of the crowd tried to set fire to a community hall.

After the clash, a four-man delegation was allowed to hand a petition to the Maokeng mayor, Mr C Koekoe, and the local chief of police.

In a report-back meeting held later it was announced that a consumer and rent boycott campaign would start with immediate effect until the sacked municipal workers were reinstated.

It was also resolved to boycott shops and taxis owned by councillors.

One of the two people shot by Bophuthatwana police at Thlabane was identified as Miss Menku Huma (18) by the official news agency, Bopana. The other was believed to be 29-year-old Mr Paul Molefe.

They were killed during a march by 8 000 residents to protest against a statement by Bophuthatswana president, Mr Lucas Mangope, that the homeland would still be independent "in 100 years", according to a spokesman for the Thlabane Action Committee.

The spokesman said police conducted a house-to-house search in the township and detained a number of youths.

A statement issued by Bopana yesterday said Bophuthatswana police had reported that "the unrest at Thlabane on Sunday claimed two lives while buildings and vehicles were destroyed by fire".

The police version of the story, according to Bopana, was that about 20 000 people assembled in front of the stadium in the township in the morning. The people were told to disperse but they refused to do so, and "tearsmoke was used without effect".

The crowd damaged several offices and burnt vehicles and offices, said police.

The police said 123 people had been arrested at the scene of the confrontation.

A number of people were also injured on Sunday after Bophuthatswana police disrupted a prayer service to commemorate the death of three people killed by the Bophuthatswana police at Eersterus in Hamanskraal three years ago.

Eersterus Youth Organisation publicity secretary Mr Donny Mothoa yesterday told a media conference in Pretoria that police fired rubber bullets and teargas canisters into the crowded Roman Catholic Church without warning.

Mr Mothoa said a school was set on fire at the Mogogelo village near Hamanskraal after a mob was sjambokked by homeland police.

Mr Mothoa also announced that a stayaway which began on Sunday in the Moretele region following a spate of detentions in the homeland in recent weeks would end today.

At the time of going to press, Bophuthatswana police were not available for comment on the Eersterus incidents.

The names of those killed at Ha-Kutama in Venda have not been released, and no statement regarding the incident has been made by Venda police or the Venda Bureau for Information.

Pupils in many parts of Venda boycotted classes yesterday in sympathy with government employees staging a sit-in over a pay dispute.

Sapa reports that thousands of teachers staged a stayaway yesterday and civil servants and magistrates also stopped work.

Marchers who were part of the thousands who stayed away from work at Maokeng township, near Kroonstad, chant and dance on their way to hand a petition to the local mayor. ● Picture by Jacoob Rykliff.

Gazankulu unrest: call for restraint

By Dirk Nel and Winnie Graham

GIYANI — Gazankulu Chief Minister Professor Hudson Ntsanwisi yesterday denied claims that he had fled from the homeland in the face of growing unrest and demands by the new Giyani Youth Congress.

At a press conference in Giyani yesterday, he called for restraint by everyone involved in recent disturbances in the homeland. He said government services and businesses were functioning normally, because workers had returned to their places of employment.

He also said there had been a 50 percent return to schools by pupils who had supported boycott action.

Professor Ntsanwisi said his government had replied to certain demands last week in a petition by the Giyani Youth Congress including that all matriculants who failed in 1989 be readmitted to schools.

There were also demands that corporal punishment be abolished and all detained students be released.

His expressed himself in favour of the re-admission of matriculants, and added that a circular to abolish corporal punishment had been sent to all headmasters.

As far as detained students were concerned, the Chief Minister said there were none "and, in any case, this is matter for the law courts".

The Chief Minister said he fully supported the reform initiatives of President de Klerk.

"When I heard Mr Mandela urge our people to throw away their knives, guns and pangas, I felt I was listening to a man talking after my own heart."

● In a statement at the weekend, the Gazankulu government blamed unrest in the homeland on a deliberate campaign by the Mass Democratic Movement to "mobilise students and youth and intimidate the moderate population".

A statement by Professor Ntsanwisi described the situation as "mob politics fermented by people who think more with their hearts than their heads".

In his address before Mr Justice Goldstein, A Mostert SC, for Johnson, submitted the phrase meant and was intended to

Mostert submitted that the word "depraved" in all its connotations could only mean in a moral sense.

The hearing continues today.

SA and homelands hit by violence and stayaways

A Day 27/2/90. (113)

UNREST escalated across the country and in homelands yesterday. In Venda civil servants and magistrates downed tools, Sapa reports.

All schools in Venda were closed yesterday as thousands of teachers staged a stayaway.

There were reports that three children had been killed since Friday.

SA Council of Churches field worker Magwedzha Mphaphuli said two children died on Saturday at Thsiozwi when police moved in to disperse a rally in honour of Nelson Mandela.

Another child died on Friday, he said, when police intercepted a van carrying youths who had joined a rally by teachers demanding higher pay.

Deputy Commissioner of Venda Police N J Leshi said he knew nothing of the incidents. According to his information, the rallies never took place.

MATTHEW CURTIN reports that as SADF troops prepared to pull out of Gazankulu this week, Chief Minister Hudson Ntsanwisi appealed for people to show restraint and agreed to the redress of some grievances.

Ntsanwisi said the Cabinet and government officials would institute a commission of inquiry into the unrest.

He confirmed the SADF would leave Gazankulu as soon as the situation returned to normal.

Gazankulu police commander Brig Jacob Sono said yesterday that the homeland had been free of disturbances over the weekend.

Sapa reports from Mokeng township, near Kroonstad, that municipal police said they opened fire on a mob yesterday, killing two and injuring four others. Police alleged the mob tried to burn a community hall.

Earlier, Mokeng Crisis Committee (MCC) senior official James Jane said three children were gunned down as residents prepared to stage a protest march.

"The SAP from Welkom were called in and the marchers led by Mr Andreas Modise, the chairman of the MCC, are now busy negotiating (grievances)," Jane said.

The SAP said they could not comment until they had investigated the matter.

Residents of Temba in Bophuthatswana staged a massive stayaway yesterday, erecting barricades in the streets and setting tyres alight.

Pupils boycotted schools to back the stayaway.

2 children die in fire

(113)

Sowetan 28/2/90

Witch-hunt killers blamed

By MATHATHA TSEDU

TWO children, one aged seven months and the other two years old, were killed in a hut blaze at Tshikhudeni Village in continuing anti-witchcraft unrest in Venda, police announced yesterday.

Venda Police Commissioner, Lieutenant General TR Molaudzi, said youths in the village - about 10km south-east of the capital Thohoyandou - set fire to the hut at about 10pm.

He could not identify the family. The *Sowetan* visited the area yesterday and found three huts burnt and a fourth damaged by stones.

Neighbours said one of the razed huts belonged to the Ndou family. One of the children killed was said to be Mashudu.

Two goats died at the nearby home of Mrs Florah Lalamani after roof hut and a grain storage shed on the same evening.

Tears

Two goats died at the nearby home of Mrs Florah Lalamani after youths set fire to a thatch-roof hut and a grain storage shed on the same evening.

Lalamani, in tears, said the youths alleged that her husband was "the boss in the village and talks too much at meetings held at the Chief's kraal". She said her family would move away.

So far over 20 people have died in the witch-hunt which started a month ago. People have been accused of either being witches or involved in ritual killings. Presently, however, many people are taking advantage of

To Page 2.

Mandela (centre) with wife Winnie (far right) and Murphy Morobe (far left) in crowd at Jan Smuts Airport before leaving for Lusaka

Hero's welcome in Lusaka

Sowetan 28/2/90

LUSAKA - Nelson Mandela received a hero's welcome yesterday as he set foot on foreign soil for the first time in 28 years.

The freed black nationalist embraced exiled leaders of the African National Congress and seven African presidents in an emotionally charged ceremony on the tarmac at the main Lusaka airport.

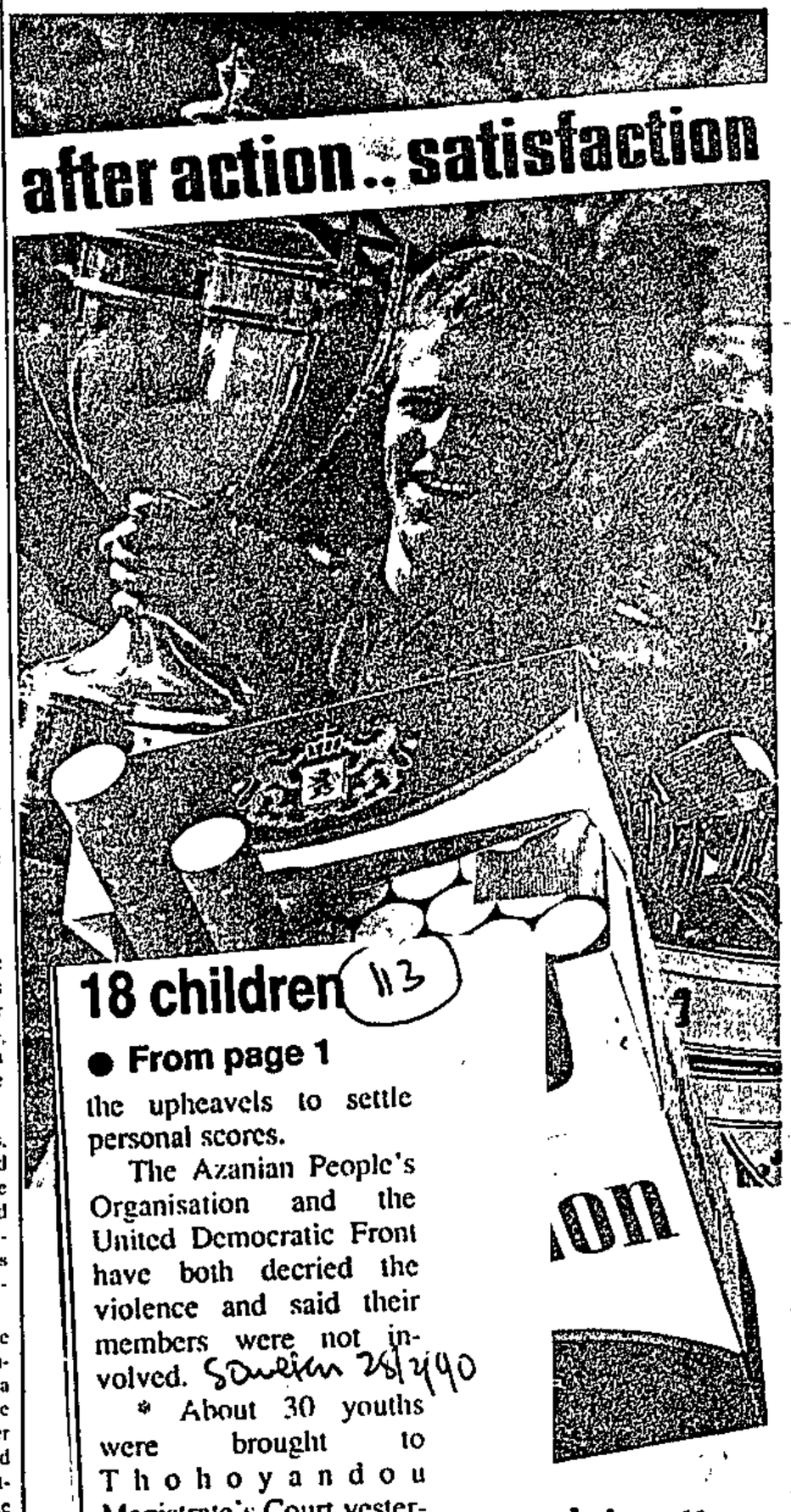
President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, whose Southern African nation has hosted the ANC's external headquarters for almost two decades, was first to greet Mandela and his wife Winnie moments after the Zambia Airways twin-prop Fokker Friendship touched down.

To the throb of drums, Mandela was garlanded with red and white flowers by the children of ANC exiles as dozens of young ANC guerillas in shirts and military green fatigues looked on.

Kaunda, 64, current chairman of the six-member grouping of African Frontline nations neighbouring South Africa, last saw Mandela before he was jailed in 1962.

Crowds of upwards of 10 000 people, including many South African ex-

● To page 2



after action.. satisfaction

18 children

(113)

● From page 1

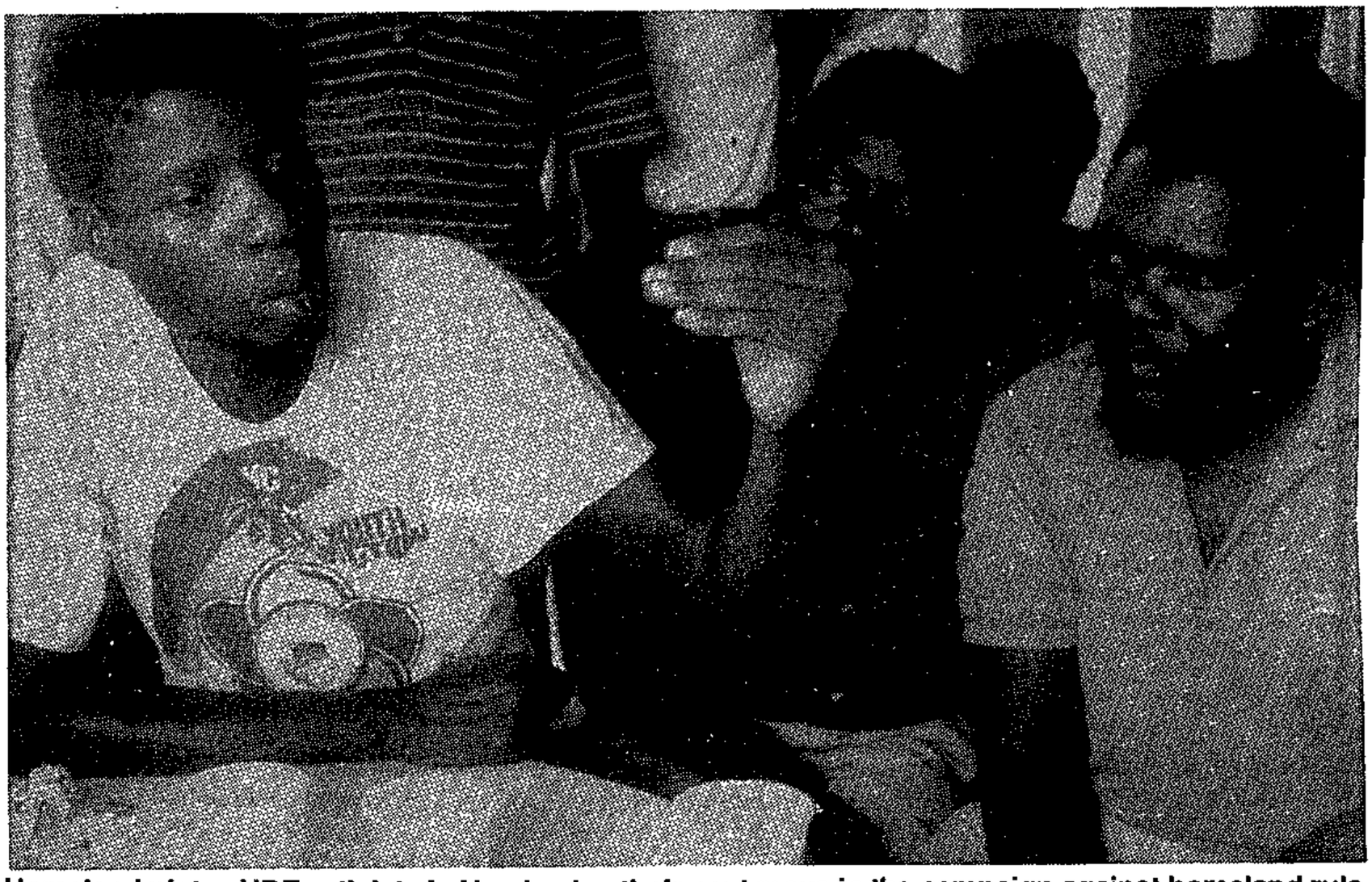
the upheavels to settle personal scores.

The Azanian People's Organisation and the United Democratic Front have both decried the violence and said their members were not involved. Sowetan 28/2/90

* About 30 youths were brought to Thohoyandou Magistrate's Court yesterday following similar incidents at Tshidzivhe village. The youths spent the day in the courtroom waiting for a magistrate. All court officials were still on strike yesterday.

System failure for grand apartheid

W/Mail 2/3 - 8/3/90 (1/3)



Homeland plot ... UDF activists in Venda plan their next move in the campaign against homeland rule

Strikes bring Venda to a standstill

(113)

W/Mail 2/3 – 8/3/90

WIDESPREAD economic sabotage by civil servants in Venda is causing the far-northern Transvaal "homeland" to grind to a standstill.

The one-week-old strike by Venda's government workers, including magistrates and policemen, is at the centre of the biggest challenge that the government of the volatile homeland has ever seen.

Water and electricity supplies have been disrupted and government departments are not functioning fully. There are also rumblings of discontent in the police and army.

So far, the Venda government has chosen to react with repression. 18 people have died as the people demand that the homeland government resign, and over 50 have been injured. Many have been detained.

Among the demands is reincorporation into South Africa.

This week security forces in Venda broke up a demonstration held at the University of Venda. The police used teargas and shamboks, chasing students through Thohoyandou, the homeland's capital.

A march of 4 000 people to the department of education was dispersed by police. At least five people have been arrested following the demonstration. The police have arrested South African Council of Churches workers, suspecting that they were journalists.

A heavy military presence is evident in the streets of the town as civil servants in various departments of the homeland's civil administration refuse to work until the government meets their demands.

Prosecutors have hung up their cloaks and refuse to work. Some magistrates have joined the protest, wreaking havoc in Venda's Ministry of Justice.

There was no water in Venda this week; when the army distributed water to residents of Thohoyandou, a wild rumour circulated that the water was poisoned.

● To PAGE 6

Venda grinds to a halt

(113)

W/Mail 2/3 – 8/3/90

● From PAGE 5

Electrical workers decided to down tools and darkness prevailed over Venda.

The unemployed are planning a march to demand the end of nepotism and corruption; they also demand jobs in Venda. Civil servants have also demanded an end to the use of witchcraft by government officials.

The biggest source of income for the government of Venda is the tea plantations. These too have been affected by a strike, as workers demand higher wages. The department of development has also been strike-ridden.

The lower ranks of the homeland's police are likewise showing great dissatisfaction. This week they threatened to go on strike if they did not get an increase in salary; they also said they were not willing to fire on their own friends and neighbours.

A soldier in the Venda Defence Force told the *Weekly Mail* this week: "We feel that we would like to support the majority of the people, and there are many of us who feel this way, but it is difficult for us because we are run by white generals."

C/Press 4/3/90 (113)

No education in crisis-ridden Venda

Rev MP Phosiwa . . . peaceful rally.

By SOPHIE TEMA

VENDA remains in a grip of deepening crisis as education in the area has come to a complete standstill.

In the wave of unrest that is sweeping through the homeland rumours are rife that a special meeting is to be held in the Parliament this week and a vote of no confidence will be passed on President FN Ravele, and Minister of Education Prof MER Mathivha.

At present thousands of teachers in the homeland are boycotting school to back demands for better salaries and an improvement in working conditions. They claim that in comparison with the salary scales of teachers in other homelands and those in South Africa they are the lowest paid.

To show solidarity with the teachers, children in the homeland have not been going to school for almost a month.

The education department expects schools to resume tomorrow and all teachers and students are expected to report. However, teachers resolved on Friday not to return to classes until all their demands are met.

The resolution was taken at a meeting minutes before members of the Venda Defence Force moved into the stadium in Thohoyandou and ordered scores of teachers to disperse and warned that the meeting was illegal.

The teachers were forced to disperse after teargas had been shot into the stadium. Teargas was also used to disperse a crowd of university students who wanted to meet and discuss their problems two days earlier.

On Friday nurses at the Siloam Hospital held a meeting to discuss demands for better salaries, food and accommodation for black doctors.

A spokesman for OK Bazaars in Thohoyandou yesterday said the store had to close after teargas had been shot into the building. Customers overcome by the fumes caused damage estimated at R100 000 as they tried to run to safety.

Earlier in the morning, Mathivha warned that all meetings in the area had been banned including the one that was to have been held by the teachers.

The teachers were to have met Mathivha to get feedback on a petition they presented to him two weeks ago and to discuss the school crisis.

Mathivha said: "If the teachers defy my orders then they should keep in mind that any problems they encounter will not be the responsibility of the department."

He said, however, that the department had addressed the most crucial grievances of the teachers, including maternity benefits and maternity leave.

The Senate at the university was also reported to have issued circulars to lecturers urging them to return tomorrow.

But some of the lecturers resolved not to return to classes and called on the Minister of Education to take a serious view of the education situation.

Teachers intended holding another meeting soon to try and resolve the present crisis and only if the authorities were prepared to meet them and discuss their grievances would they reverse their decision.

Trouble in the homeland started with the burning of about 20 people suspected of taking part in witchcraft and ritual killings which surfaced during 1988.

According to the Rev MP Phosiwa of the Lutheran Church in Venda, the Nelson Mandela rally in Venda on February 12 ended peacefully, but four youths were reported to have died on they way home in motor accidents.

The assault on some youngsters and their arrests that day then sparked off the boycotts in places like Sibasa and Thohoyandou among teachers and other civil servants.

address the central demand

DET shock for matriculants as certificates don't arrive

C/Press 11/3/90

By DESMOND BLOW and COLLETTE CAINE

THOUSANDS of students ...

ployment because of the delay in receiving their certificates.

113

Discontent over bantustan system is behind violence

BEHIND the violence that has claimed at least 50 lives in Gazankulu, Venda and Bophuthatswana in past weeks is a deep discontent that has been brewing over the bantustan system for some time.

In Gazankulu all activities ground to a halt this week after residents expressed their anger and frustration at living under the rule of Chief Minister Hudson Ntsanwisi, who has allegedly run the area with an iron fist.

"Our society is now threatened by the spiral of violence from which we had thought we would be immune," he said this week.

Earlier, crowds attacked and damaged the homeland leader's property.

Organisations and residents have demanded the immediate resignation of Ntsanwisi and the dismantling of the bantustan.

A Gazankulu government source told Sapa that Ntsanwisi would probably resign this month.

He said a special session of the Legislative Assembly had been called for March 19, when the chief minister was expected to announce his resignation.

Leading activists in Nkowankowa, Gazankulu, have forecast an epidemic of violence in the area until Ntsanwisi resigns.

"The dissolution of the homeland is the only demand that the people of Gazankulu want addressed. We shall not settle for anything less," said Tzaneen Education Crisis Committee vice-chairman Edgar Moshuwane.

The anti-government riots have spread into surrounding villages after police opened fire on a crowd at Nkowankowa Stadium on Wednesday.

The death toll has since risen to six in Nkowankowa township after a work stoppage and a mass meeting to address the education crisis.

The first victim, Maria Milanzi of Tickey Line Village near Nkowankowa, was apparently shot in the neck when the crowds were leaving the stadium.

Letaba hospital superintendent Dr Willie Langehoven told *City Press* it was the first time the area had experienced such turmoil.

"Apparently most of the victims were shot with birdshot. Four people have died so far and two are in critical condition in the hospital," he said.

Two other dead have been identified as Isaac Ngobeni and Almon Malungana. Langenhoven said the hospital had an official record of only four dead.

Lucky Ntimana, 17, a victim of the latest violence in Gazankulu, recovers in hospital.

Gazankulu chief minister expected to bow to people's demands to step down

By SANDILE MEMELA

Businesses, schools and government offices in Giyani and surrounding areas have been closed. The situation is expected to deteriorate further at the mass funeral of the four victims scheduled for today.

"We demand that the police pull out of the township and stay away from the people as our experience has taught us their presence worsens things," said Mushowane.

The the South African Defence Force has set up a temporary military base at Nkowankowa stadium.

Police patrol the streets and groups of armed police are protecting Ntswanisi's home.

Said Mushowane: "The Pretoria government has shown that it is willing to talk but senior people in Gazankulu are opposed to such initiatives.

"The people will not rest until the whole bantustan system in the area has been brought down."

He said his community has waged a lonely war against the Gazankulu government and the release of Nelson Mandela was the turning point that has recharged the spirits of the people.

"Since the release the level of militancy has risen. There is little doubt that everyone wishes to live in a united democratic country under his leadership," said Mushowane.

In Venda, a similar crisis, sparked by huge salary increases for senior officials, deepened last week when civil servants rejected a government offer to withdraw the new salaries.

The Public Service Staff Association said the entire civil administration would remain on strike until salary parity with South African government scales was achieved.

In other incidents in the area, over 20 people have died in a witch-hunt which started in January. People have been accused of either being witches or involved in ritual killings.

It has been reported that many people are taking advantage of the upheavals to settle personal scores.

Residents in Thohoyandou described the situation as very tense.

Calvin Nethengwe, a bookeeper with Fetitepo in Thohoyandou, told *City Press*: "The situation is very tense. People in the area are expressing their resentment at the homeland system of government.

"What they demand is for the government to resign and hand over power to South Africa."

A student who declined to be named said school boycotts were also linked to resistance to the homeland system.

"We are not going to school because we do not want to be educated. The boycotts are about us getting our rights as citizens of South Africa," said the student.

In Bophuthatswana more than six people have died in celebrations to mark the freeing of Mandela and the unbanning of political organisations.

The past few days have seen tension heighten over whether Bophuthatswana will keep its independence.

Last week Mandela said the people would decide Bophuthatswana's future.

"We cannot allow a single individual to decide for the people. The question of whether Bophuthatswana should be reincorporated into South Africa does not depend on an individual, but on the masses," he said.

Meanwhile, in Mdantsane in the Ciskei, 10 people were reportedly shot dead and more than 20 injured when police opened fire on crowds celebrating Mandela's release.

The Ciskeian government cut off water supplies to Peddie Extension, an unrest area where several people were reported to have been detained.

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Riots 'unrelated to reincorporation'

Star 9/3/90 By Sefako Nyaka (113)

THOHOYANDOU — The present wave of political unrest in the homelands was a result of black people who differed politically, and was not connected to the call for reincorporation into South Africa, according to Foreign Minister Pik Botha.

Speaking after a two-hour meeting with Venda Cabinet Ministers at the homeland's capital yesterday, Mr Botha pointed out that there was no independent black state in Natal and yet there was unrest.

"I don't think the unrest is directly connected to that (the question of reincorporation)," he said.

Mr Botha also said his Government had discussed matters of a bilateral nature with the Venda government including economic and agricultural development as well as nursing and teaching problems.

Venda President Frank Ravele had raised the issue of reincorporation. "The president raised with me once more the issue of a possible reincorporation into South Africa," said Mr Botha, adding that Mr Ravele had discussed the issue with President de Klerk.

He said Mr de Klerk believed that if it was in the interest of Venda to return to SA, then it was a matter he would wish to discuss.

"The president (Mr de Klerk) has made it quite clear that all options are open for discussion. The only thing he asked was that the options must be properly discussed and analysed so that the implications become clear to everybody."

Mr Botha said Pretoria had made it clear to Venda that in terms of an agreement between the two countries, SA would not hesitate to provide Mr Ravele with the necessary security, should he ask for it.

Speaking to The Star yesterday, President Ravele confirmed that he believed the unrest was a result of clashes between blacks who differed politically.

Cape Times 10/3/90 113

Let the people decide — Ravele

JOHANNESBURG. — Venda President Frank Ravele has decided to allow the people of the homeland to decide whether they want to be reincorporated into South Africa.

"The destiny of Venda should be decided by the people themselves," he said yesterday after meetings with SA Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha.

He thanked President F W de Klerk "for leaving the door open for the independent states to return to SA".

"However, there are many paths that can be followed and many implications and these must all be thoroughly investigated so that the best can be achieved for all the Venda people," he said. — Sapa

(113)

Venda lifts ban on ANC, PAC

Cape Times 17/3/90

JOHANNESBURG. — The Venda government has lifted the ban on the ANC, the PAC, the SA Communist Party and other political organisations in the state.

Venda president Mr Frank Ravele, who made the announcement in Thohoyandou, said people held merely for being members of these organisations would be released.

He said, however, that the lifting of the ban did not mean terrorism or acts of violence would be tolerated.

Protest marches would not be allowed to become springboards for lawlessness, violence and intimidation.

Mr Ravele said his government had investigated the possibility of reincorporation into the new South Africa and the issue would be high on the agenda at tomorrow's special sitting of the Legislative Assembly. — Sapa

Unrest keeps focus on Ravele

Crisis clouds still hang over Venda, Gazankulu

Sowetan 19/3/90 · 113

FOCUS

By MATHATHA TSEDU

IT rained the whole day at Thohoyandou last Tuesday. In the tradition of black people the world over, it would have been seen as good omen. A good time for good things to happen.

Indeed the day was pregnant with immense possibilities. Venda's national assembly - or circus as some call it - was sitting in an extraordinary session to discuss unrest and the fate of its nominal independence.

As the dark cloud hovered and burst over the homeland, the area was in flames both literally and figuratively.

Youths in various areas were on the rampage, killing, maiming, burning and destroying people and property in a macabre sequence of witch-hunt.

Killings

Forty-four people have so far died since the killings started in January.

As the MPs gathered, SADF troops, who were called in to boost the local army, trundled past in long convoys of armoured vehicles.

Government offices, schools and shops in Sibasa and partly in Thohoyandou itself were closed as people left early for their homes in response to appeals for a work stayaway.

The day before the sitting, more than 10 000 people converged on the main government buildings brandishing a human skull found in the veld.

The marchers, chanting freedom songs, claimed that the woman was killed for ritual purposes by a cabinet minister, Chief M M Mphaphuli. They demanded that he be dismissed and arrested.

Pres Frank Ravele

After police commissioner Lieutenant-General T R Mulaudzi asked the crowd to hand the skull in at the police station for forensic tests, a policeman allegedly shot and killed a woman protester apparently without provocation.

Mrs Elsie Makuya died on the spot and was buried by a large crowd at the weekend.

This shooting plunged the homeland into a new crisis following two weeks of labour unrest involving civil servants, teachers, parastatal officials and other factory workers.

Memorandums were submitted by groups, such as the UDF, calling for the imediate denunciation of the nominal independence. Teachers were calling for the resignation of the newly-appointed Minister of Education, Prof M E R Mathivha, and the entire cabinet.

Salaries

It was in this situation that the extraordinary session of the national assembly took place. A

They also, together with other civil servants, demanded salary parity with their counterparts in South Africa.

measure of the seriousness with which the government viewed the situation was the announcement at the start of the session that Mphamphuli had been suspended from the cabinet.

President Frank Ravele further announced that the policeman responsible for Makuya's death had been detained pending further investigation.

Clearly, Ravele was trying to appease the public outside.

When the debate about reincorporation started, Ravele read a speech in which he said his government accepted the need to "go back to South Africa".

Elections

He, however, said the now-unbanned organisations could in the meantime call for elections in the homeland and have their own representatives in the national assembly.

He said his government still had to continue as the process of government could not just stop abruptly.

His ministers took the matter further and one, Mr S Phaswana, said people should not rush the government into resigning or handing back independence.

It was clear that while realising the justice of the demands by the people that the homeland be disbanded, they could not bring themselves to actually accept that this was it.

Ruled

Opposition MPs who called for the immediate resignation of the cabinet were ruled out of order by the Speaker, Mr W R Mufamadi.

Several MPs were told to sit down by Mufamadi when they raised the issue of resignation.

But even these MPs were not addressing the issue of disbandment of the bantustan immediately. They wanted Ravele and his gang out so that they could be replaced by others, maybe themselves.

With Ravele earning more than R10 000 a month, plus a free car, free house, free food, non-taxable allowances and various favours offered by those seeking his assistance, is it any wonder that he is arguing for the prolonging of the status quo?, said Azapo's chairman in the sub-region, Mr Thivhilaeli Mutobvu.

Suspension

Despite the suspension of Mphaphuli and detention of Mudzusi, the situation in the homeland remained virtually unchanged. Schools continued to be boycotted, shops closed and most taxis not operating.

Ravele's attempt to buy time seems to have failed dismally. The National Assembly meets again on Friday at the start of this year's session.

It is here that the moves to pass the no confidence motion are likely to be earnestly pursued by MPs.

It leaves Ravele with no place to hide and virtually no structure to turn to. If he resists the moves by the popular organisations, it is rumoured that the defence force will take over to forestall economic collapse.

Either way he loses and the eyes of the world will now be focused on Venda and Gazankulu in the latest bantustan roadshows.

Skull-carrying marchers clash with police

Sowetan 13/3/90

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A schoolgirl was yesterday shot dead when police opened fire on 10 000 people who marched to the offices of the Venda president, Chief Frank Ravele, to hand over a human skull which was found in the veld near the capital, Thohoyandou.

The identity of the girl had not been established at the time of going to Press as all senior police officers were said to be in a meeting with the Minister of Police.

But the superintendent at Tshilidzini Hospital, Dr S Naude, confirmed that a schoolgirl was certified dead on arrival

Eyewitnesses said the girl was in the front row of the marchers who were holding a stick with the skull on top.

The girl was shot at the Thohoyandou police station.

Shops and offices closed after the incident and a heavy presence of Venda Defence Force and SADF members was evident in all parts of Thohoyandou and Sibasa, sources in the area said.

Workers and schoolchildren took part in the 10km march.

The crowd, singing freedom songs, demanded the immediate dismissal and arrest of the Minister of Local Government, Chief M M Mphaphudi.

Mphaphudi was recently implicated in an incident involving the disappearance of an old woman in September 1987 from Mbilwi, his home area.

The woman was never

By MATHATHA TSEDU

found and it was believed she was killed for ritual purposes.

Police commissioner, Lieutenánt T R Mulaudzi, said the marchers had insisted that the skull, found in the forest at Mbilwi by women looking for firewood, was that of the woman who disappeared in 1987.

When the storm around the disappearance of the woman broke more than a month ago, Mphaphudi tried to explain his innocence at a public meeting and was pelted with stones.

Eyewitnesses said yesterday that the area where the skull was found also had clothing and other items, including a woolen money purse and bangles. Other bones of the body were, however. not there, they said.

Police and soldiers escorted the marchers while the newly arrived SADF members monitored the situation from helicopters.

The crowd moved into the main government buildings with the skull pinned to a piece of wood. They later left for the police station where the skull was handed to the station commander.

General Mulaudzi said the skull would be sent to Pretoria for forensic tests.

The skull find came as the Venda homelamd was returning to normal yesterday following two weeks of unrest which had left all economic activity at a standstill.

Workers and teachers streamed back to their jobs yesterday morning following the resumption of operations by public transport operators.

* The Venda National Assembly meets in an important extraordinary fashion today to discuss the mechanisms of reincorporating the homeland into South Africa.

Chaos hits Venda

(113)

Sowetan 14/3/90

President Ravele.

Govt faces collapse

THE embattled Venda government yesterday ditched one cabinet minister and arrested a policeman who shot and killed a woman protestor on Monday as political upheavals brought the homeland to the brink of economic collapse.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Shops, factories and most government offices in Sibasa and Thohoyandou remained closed yesterday while the homeland's national assembly met in an emergency session to discuss the unrest and the mechanics of re-incorporating the area into South Africa.

And, as president Frank Ravele announced his government's acceptance of reincorporation and its abandonment of nominal independence, MPs rejected this as too little too late and called for his immediate resignation.

Suspension

The suspension of land tenure and local government minister, Chief M M Mphaphuli, was among the demands on Monday by over 10 000 marchers carrying a human skull which they claimed belonged to a ritual killing victim.

The marchers said chief Mphaphuli had killed the victim in 1987 and they said they demanded that he be arrested.

A pupil at Mphaphuli High School and grand-daughter of the alleged victim, Mrs Elsie Makuya (Nephalama) was shot dead by a policeman at the Thohoyandou police station grounds during the march. The shooting has been widely condemned as cold-blooded murder.

The policeman, identified only as Mudzusi, has been "detained pending investigations," Ravele said.

Schools in the Sibasa-Thohoyandou area were deserted yesterday while SADF troops patrolled the rain-soacked area in long convoys of armoured vehicles.

In random interviews at Thohoyandou and Sibasa yesterday, there was a general feeling that the suspension of Mphaphuli was merely to placate the public so that the unrest could come to an end.

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P.T.O.

Sowetan 14/3/90

Chaos in Venda

(113)

• From page 1

Some senior government officials said the defence force was likely to step in if yesterday's moves failed to defuse the situation, which had disrupted major economic activities for over a month.

The Chief of the Defence Force Brigadier Steenkamp, was last week the only non-cabinet member allowed into a meeting between the Venda cabinet and foreign affairs Minister Pik Botha.

Failed

Announcing his government position on reincorporation, Ravele said the homeland's independence had failed because the international community had not recognised it.

He said State President F W de Klerk had told him last year that options open to Venda included "returning to South Africa". He said independence had been motivated by "our inherent opposition to the apartheid policy of the government of the Republic of South Africa at the time".

Fate

Ravele said reincorporation would not happen immediately. In the meantime, government had to continue and the fate of government officials had to be decided. He called on all workers to return to their work and said teachers and pupils should resume the learning process as the new South Africa would need educated people.

Mr A R Tshivhase, MP, said people had lost confidance in Ravele. Ravele's call to civil servants, teachers, pupils and workers to stop the unrest had gone unheeded. The unrest would continue until Ravele resigned, Tshivhase said.

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Star 14/3/90

Vote on Venda-SA links to be held

By Dirk Nel, Northern Transvaal Bureau

THOHOYANDOU — President Frank Ravele of Venda announced last night that a referendum would be held in the territory soon to determine whether citizens of Venda were in favour of reincorporation into South Africa.

During a special meeting of the Venda parliament, he rejected calls to resign, and denied claims that his government had become ineffective and indecisive. The president's announcement came after an all-day debate on the unrest situation in the homeland and future links with South Africa.

Earlier yesterday, Venda Cabinet Minister Chief M M Mphaphula was suspended following allegations by protesters that he should be arrested in connection with ritual murder.

SHOT DEAD

The demand was among others made by about 10 000 protesters in the capital on Monday. During the protest, Elsie Nephalama (15) was shot dead. Announcing the Minister's suspension yesterday, Mr Ravele said a policeman was being detained in connection with the shooting.

Last night, Mr Justice Nedzamda, a spokesman for the Foundation for Education with Production, Investment, Trade and Employment Organisation, called for Chief Mphaphula's arrest. He said that as a result of the failure of the police to arrest the Minister on Monday, pupils decided to stay away from schools in Thohoyandou yesterday, shops were closed, transport services were at a standstill and civil servants stayed away from work.

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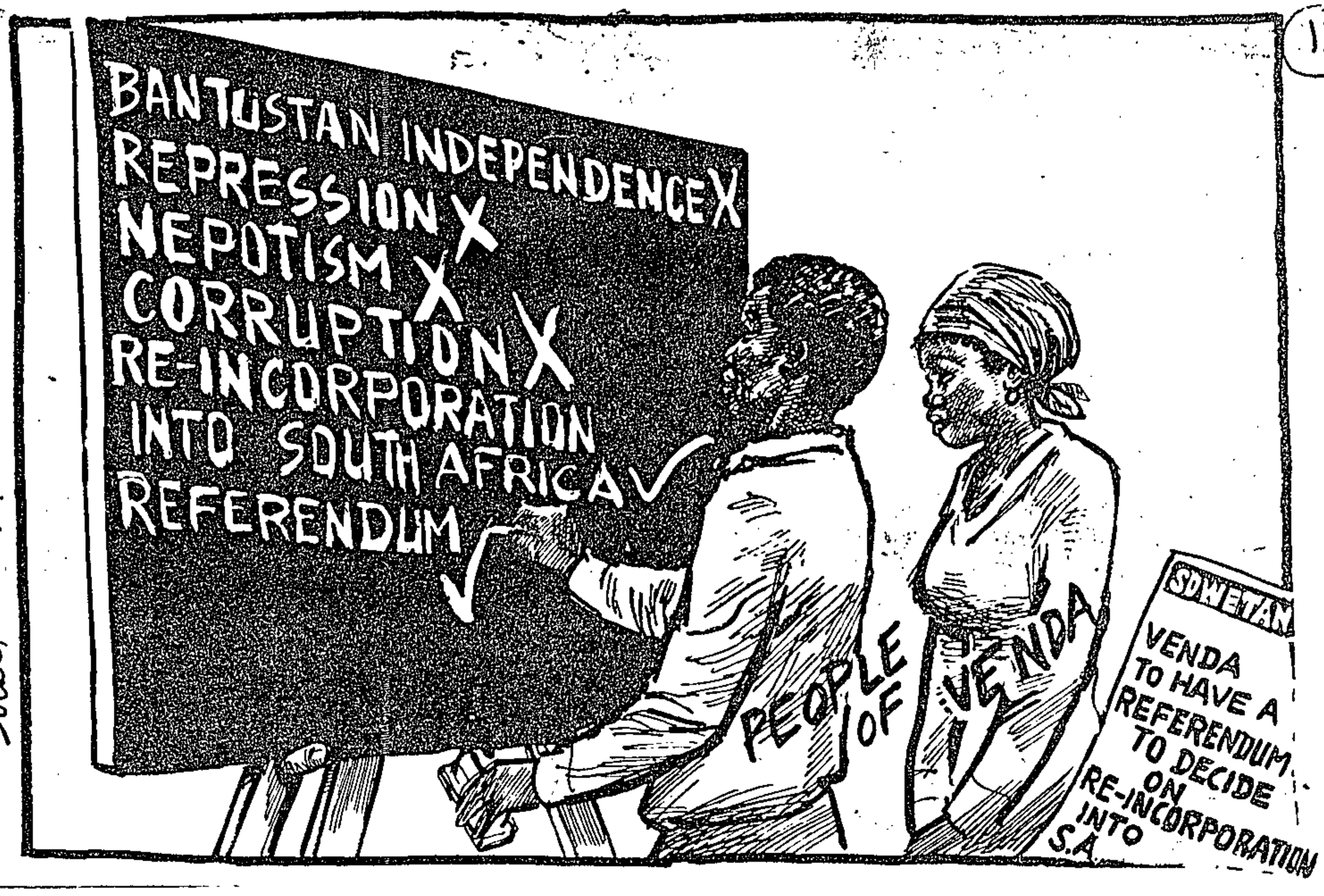
Sowetan 15/3/90



15/3/90
Sowetan

Chaos in Venda worsens

(113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE embattled Venda government has ditched a cabinet minister and arrested a policeman who shot and killed a woman protestor on Monday as political upheavals brought the homeland to the brink of economic collapse.

Shops, factories and government offices in Sibasa and Thoyoyandou remained closed on Tuesday while the homeland's national assembly met in an emergency session to discuss the unrest and the mechanics of re-incorporation into South Africa.

And, as president Frank Ravele announced his government's acceptance of re-incorporation and its abandonment of nominal independence, MPs rejected this as too little, too late and called for his immediate resignation.

The suspension of Chief M M Mphaphuli was among demands on Monday by over 10 000 marchers carrying a human skull which they claimed belonged to a ritual killing victim.

The marchers said Mphaphuli had killed the victim in 1987 and demanded that he be arrested.

A pupil was shot dead by a policeman during the march.

Witchcraft becomes a powerful component of political strife

Star 16/3/90 (113)

Venda's medicine murders

PATRICK LAURENCE reports on witchcraft as a factor in Venda's political strife.

Political strife and witchcraft have become inextricably intertwined in the nominally independent "homeland" of Venda.

A textbook case of witchcraft as a powerful component of political conflict was manifest recently when 10 000 people marched on the office of President Frank Ravele.

A marcher in the front row carried a human skull on a stick. It had been found in the veld near the Thouhoyandou. The marchers were convinced that it was the skull of a woman who disappeared in 1987.

They demanded the dismissal and arrest of the Chief M M Mphaphudi, the Minister of Local Government, accusing him of complicity in the woman's disappearance.

The suspicion was that Chief Mphaphudi had been implicated in the murder of the woman but shielded from prosecution by his high status. His alleged motive was to obtain medicine to protect and strengthen him against his enemies.

Medicine murder, as Professor David Hammond-Tooke of the University of the Witwatersrand remarked in an interview, is a perverted extension of the established tribal custom of making medicines from plants and animals.

It is associated, as the British anthropologist G I Jones showed in his study of medicine murder in Lesotho in the late 1940s and early 1950s, with times of severe stress when people under threat feel compelled to seek the protection of especially powerful medicine.

Venda has experienced prolonged and intense conflict between pro- and anti-independence factions. It has simultaneously witnessed rivalry for positions of influence.

Since it became "independent" in 1979, Venda has acquired notoriety as a society prone to medicine murders; its rulers officially recognised the problem when they appointed a judge to investigate its causes in 1988.

Some of the perpetrators of medicine murders have been Venda notables. In the early 1980s, Chief Frank Ramovha, a Deputy Minister, was hanged after being found guilty of a medicine murder.

Another high-ranking man ended up on the gallows for the same reason: Mr Andrew Tshivase, brother of a Venda Cabinet Minister, Mr Albert Tshivase, who later resigned amid unspecified but persistent allegations that he was implicated in the medicine murder.

Suspicions

More recently, in August last year, Venda's Director-General of Intelligence, Mr Theophilus Mutshaeni, was one of eight people charged with the killing of a two-year-old boy. The alleged motive was to obtain human ingredients for medicine. The trial resumes next month.

These events do not, of course, prove Chief Mphaphudi was responsible for the 1987 disappearance of the woman from his home district of Mbilwi. They do explain, however, why there are deep-rooted popular suspicions of involvement by sections of Venda's present leadership in medicine murder.

As the Venda historian Professor Elias Lukhaimane told The Star: "The people feel the hands of some government people are not clean. They think that justice is not always done."

The Venda administration of Mr Ravele is sensitive to these charges. Its reaction to the march on Mr Ravele's office was to suspend Chief Mphaphudi and to arrest a policeman who fired a shot into the crowd, killing a teenage girl.

But there is another dimension to the situation: the possibility that, in some cases, accusations of complicity in medicine murder may be politically motivated to discredit opponents. The report by Venda's Chief Justice, Mr Justice D H J le Roux, into turmoil and medicine murders in Venda came to that conclusion.

The report blamed the United Democratic Front for much of the turbulence in the territory.

It declared that the UDF and its affiliates had as a prime objective the "destablisation and eventual destruction of the independent states".

It added: "In their philosophy there is no room for separate nations, only for the party which leads and the masses which must follow."

The report, however, was considered by UDF sympathisers to be too one-sided; it relied too heavily, in their view, on the SAP.

Mr Justice le Roux was assisted by two — to quote the report — "experienced teams drawn from the South African Police".

Traitors

Taking a broad anthropological view, it is interesting to note, as Professor Hammond-Tooke explained, that witchcraft was one of two capital offences in tribal society. Incest, and not murder, was the second.

Witchcraft was usually malevolently directed against kith and kin, against neighbours in the tightly knit tribal community; consequently those who practiced it were considered traitors to their society.

Thus, in modern day Venda, it is not surprising that those considered to be collaborators or traitors should be suspected of medicine murder.

It does not follow that popular suspicions are the product of cynical manipulation by activists. The conviction for medicine murder of men close to, or associated with, Venda's post-independence regime gives substance to these suspicions.

The death sentence was not imposed on Mr Ramovha by a mob incited by UDF agitators but by a properly constituted court; the decision to prosecute Mr Mutshaeni was not made by the enraged populace but by the attorney-general.

Students call for end to shootings

1/3

Sowetan 22/3/90

More than 3 000 residents and students from Makhado township, Venda, yesterday marched to the local police station to hand in a memorandum demanding an end to police shootings of civilians.

The march, organised by the Students Representative Council of the Makhado College of Education, followed a service to commemorate the Sharpeville shootings.

At another commemoration service at Mphephu high school hall, Nzhelele Youth Organisation (NYO) chairman, Mr Rudzani Nemutudi, told the local youths and teachers that there would be no freedom in SA until the country was transformed into a Socialist Republic of Azania.

Service

The service, organised by the Azanian Students Movement and the Azanian Youth Organisation-affiliated NYO, also heard former Pietersburg attorney, Mr Don Nkadimeng say killing of black people by whites to stop freedom will only spur blacks to new heights and forms in the struggle.

The march and demands for the resignation of President Frank Ravele at Makhado came as police confrontations with youths around the homeland spread to new areas.

The marchers also demanded the immediate reincorporation of Venda into SA and the release of 20 detainees arrested at Ha-Matidiza following the shooting on Sunday of Mr Lawrence Mahana.

It was learnt yesterday that Mahana, who was allegedly shot by a policeman on Sunday night, will be buried on Sunday morning.

The service will start at 10am at the Rabali stadium.

* UDF has announced that there will be a march on the Venda Parliament tommorow to protest the reopening of parliament on that day.

Second victim dies in clashes with police

Sowetan 21/3/90 (113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

A 22-year-old man was shot dead by a combined force of Venda police and army units at Matidza Village, Nzhelele, on Sunday night following a meeting of youths in the area, police confirmed this week.

The death of Mr Lawrence Ndikundisani Manaha precipitated a strike by nurses and other hospital workers at Siloam, where he was certified dead on arrival.

The nurses, who spent the day singing freedom songs, demanded that the Minister of Health, Mrs Doris Mphephu, should come to the hospital to see the victim.

By late yesterday afternoon, the situation in the hospital was described as chaotic, with senior nursing staff doing administrative work in the out- patient department.

There was no indication whether Mrs Mphephu would eventually arrive.

Police commissioner, Lieutenant General T R Mulaudzi, confirmed the shooting but said he had no details.

He, however, said that Manaha had been identified by the police as a leader of a group of youths who had been singing freedom songs in the streets before the shooting.

Police and soldiers has gone to his home to question him when they were allegedly stoned. Warning shots were fired and Manaha was fatally struck, he said.

But this sequence of events was disputed by sources in the village who said no stones were thrown at the security forces.

They described the shooting as unprovoked.

Schools in the vicinity were closed yesterday following the shooting.

There was fear that the entire Nzhelele region could be affected by the closure of schools until Manaha is buried.

Manaha is the second security forces' victim in seven days. A woman, Mrs Elsie Makoya, was shot dead by a policeman at the Thohoyandou police station last Monday during a protest march to hand over a human skull to the police.

Cape Times 19/3/90

70 000 go to Venda funeral

(113)

THOHOYANDOU. — About 70 000 people gathered on Saturday at the peaceful funeral service of one of the students who was shot dead at the gate of the police station here on Monday.

People chanted freedom songs and carried placards saying "Rest in peace, Comrade Elisie Nephalama Makuya."

A UDF representative, Mr Joe Mnguni, said he felt disheartened that such things should happen at a time when everyone was talking of reformation and the end of apartheid.

He called for the reincorporation of Venda into South Africa and dissolving the Venda parliament. — Sapa

Star 16/3/90 (113)

Policeman arrested after girl's death

Confusion over shooting

Political Reporter

Conflicting reports have been received on a horrifying incident in strife-torn Venda, where a young woman was allegedly shot dead by police on Monday while participating in a protest march.

The protest followed the gruesome discovery of a skull on Monday, believed to be part of the remains of an old woman who mysteriously disappeared in 1987.

It is believed the woman was killed in a ritual murder, instructed by Cabinet Minister M M Mphaphuli, who was subsequently suspended on Tuesday.

The Human Rights Commission said:

A young man confessed that he had participated in the ritual killing of the woman under the instructions of Mr M M Mphaphuli.

After the discovery of the skull, students consequently suspended all classes to "take the skull to President Ravele" and demand the arrest of Mr Mphaphuli and other people who had allegedly participated in the murder.

More than 2 000 approached the government offices but were advised to report and hand over the skull to Thohoyandou police. The marchers converged on the gates of the police station where a few of them were asked to enter the station together with the skull and open a docket. The rest remained at the gates which were manned by police officers.

Despite a strong steel gate separating the students and the police, one constable demanded that the crowd back away. Before giving the crowd any chance to move backwards, the constable cocked his R-4 rifle and shot a young female student standing less than a metre away from him.

She was Elsie Tshikhakhisa Makuya (22), the mother of a one-year-old girl.

The Army immediately intervened by teargassing the horrified students and other community members who had gathered to catch a glimpse of the skull.

Police, eye-witnesses and President Ravele said:

Police said a 15-year-old schoolgirl, Elsie Nephalama, was allegedly shot dead by Venda police at Thohoyandou when police opened fire on more than 10 000 people who were marching to deliver a human skull to the homeland's president.

Eye-witnesses said the girl was in the front row of the marchers, holding the skull on a stick when she was shot.

President Ravele said a policeman was being detained in connection with the shooting of the girl, and a full investigation was being launched. He suspended Mr Mphaphuli on Tuesday.

Mr Justice Nedzamda, a spokesman for the Foundation for Education with Production, Investment, Trade and Employment Organisation (Fepitepo), called for the suspended Minister's immediate arrest.

He said as a result of the failure of the police to arrest the Minister on Monday, students decided to stay away from schools in Thohoyandou on Tuesday, shops were closed, transport services were at a standstill and civil servants stayed away from work.

113

IN RURAL AREAS AND IN THE TOWNS, WITCHCRAFT IS INCREASINGLY BECOMING A WEAPON OF POLITICAL POWER

The political economy of witchcraft

In the mountains of Venda, an angry populace marches against a bureaucracy which relies on magic and ritual murder to entrench its power. And this strange blend of politics and witchcraft is not unique to Venda

By **EDDIE KOCH** and **EDWIN RITCHKEN**

AN angry crowd of villagers and peasants marches through the streets of Thohoyandou, led by a young girl carrying an old shawl and a human skull mounted on a piece of wood.

The horde converges outside the Republic of Venda's police headquarters. They tell the men on duty that the skull, together with the shawl and a purse, were found in a nearby field and belong to an old woman killed two years ago.

They insist that a government minister, Chief MM Mphaphudi, was responsible for the ritual murder and demand that he be arrested and sacked from the Venda cabinet.

The restive crowd mills around under the lead-grey skies that envelop the mountain slopes on which the police barracks stand. A constable lifts his R-4 rifle and fires a single shot. It instantly kills the young girl with the skull in her hand.

The macabre happenings earlier this month sparked another bout of strikes and school boycotts across the volatile "homeland". They were the latest in a chain of events that demonstrate how popular resistance to the Venda state is intricately bound up with superstition, black magic, witchcraft and muti murders.

Two days before the march some 1 000 teachers held a meeting at a sports ground in Thohoyandou to draw up a gravamen of grievances against the government of Venda.

While most members of the crowd wore the colours of the African National Congress and South African Communist Party, there were T-shirts with slogans unique to the homeland: "Stop Ritual Murders" — scrawled in red ink, resembling dripping blood, across a white background.

On February 12, the day after Nelson Mandela's release, 80 000 people took off work and flocked to a rally in Thohoyandou. That evening a group of youths, marching back from the rally, accused an old woman in the nearby village of Maungani of being a witch, stoned her to death, put her body in a hut and burnt it to the ground.

On the same night another old woman accused of witchcraft was burnt alive in her hut in Haramukhuba village. At least 18 "witches" have been killed in similar circumstances this year.

Most people in Venda believe the mist-shrouded mountains that run down the spine of the territory are haunted by zombies — villagers who have been abducted by wealthy farmers and businessmen who hire witches to turn their victims into robot-like slaves.

The torrent of popular resistance that has flooded the territory in recent weeks has been prompted by a popular conviction that chiefs, politicians and businessmen form a bureacratic elite which relies on magic and ritual murder to entrench their power and privilege.

Says local poet Risimathi Mathunzi: "The people involved in government today are the people who have businesses and they — the very people who are supposed to be protecting us — are the ones who are killing us for *muti*. They are the ones that are using witchcraft."

Mathunzi's analysis may not capture the complexity of the problem, but it goes to the heart of the relationship that has developed between witchcraft and political power since Venda became independent 11 years ago.

"In our old way of government people had a lot to say through the *koro* (the chiefs' council of elders), especially with regard to the execution of justice. The chiefs had to listen and follow the direction the people were taking," says Lutheran minister Zwoitwaho Nevuthalu.

But when Venda became "independent", a legislative assembly was created to which all chiefs were nominated and a minority of members elected by the villagers.

"They created a contradiction," says Nevuthalu. "They placed the will of the headman over the will of the people ... Now the chief has been taken over by the system of apartheid."

Mushonga, or ritual murder — in which parts of the victim's body are hacked off so that *naangas* can concoct a potion designed to bring prosperity to the people — is an ancient tradition that belonged only to the senior chiefs who ruled pre-colonial Venda society.

"People turned a blind eye to the thing in those days. It happened on a limited scale. And what was done in the chief's kraal was for the good of everyone," says Nevuthalu. "For example, during the planting season they mixed the body parts with the community's seeds and people would take from the common stock for their own fields."

But since "independence" senior chiefs, instead of being responsible to the community, are assured of their place in the parliament. Junior headmen within Venda's four main chiefdoms rely on these men for patronage and privilege. The checks and balances that could be exercised by the *koro* have been eroded.

Many businessmen and civil servants are drawn via a complex system of nepotism from chiefs' relatives. "In our belief, to reach any position you need to use human flesh. That is what businessmen practice. They open a bottle store or a motel and when business is not so good they go to a *naanga* and say, 'Hey man, the people are not buying'," explains Mathunzi.

"The *naanga* says, 'OK, get me a hand or a penis or a breast.' They do this and take it to the *naanga*, who prepares a medicine that must be buried on the business premises. They believe it will call the people to come and buy."

There is also marked insecurity in the ranks of chiefs and headmen. Senior members of the legislative assembly compete intensely for cabinet posts while junior chiefs and headmen, routinely involved in succession disputes, have to call on outside support to retain their positions.

Independence has thus led to the emergence of a bureaucratic class of chiefs, parliamentarians, civil servants and businessmen who rely on the homeland state, instead of the community, for their salaries and privileges. And the growth of this class has been marked by a dramatic increase in ritual murders. In 1984 the brother of Alfred Alidzuli "AA" Tshivase, former minister of justice, was hanged after being convicted of ritual murder.

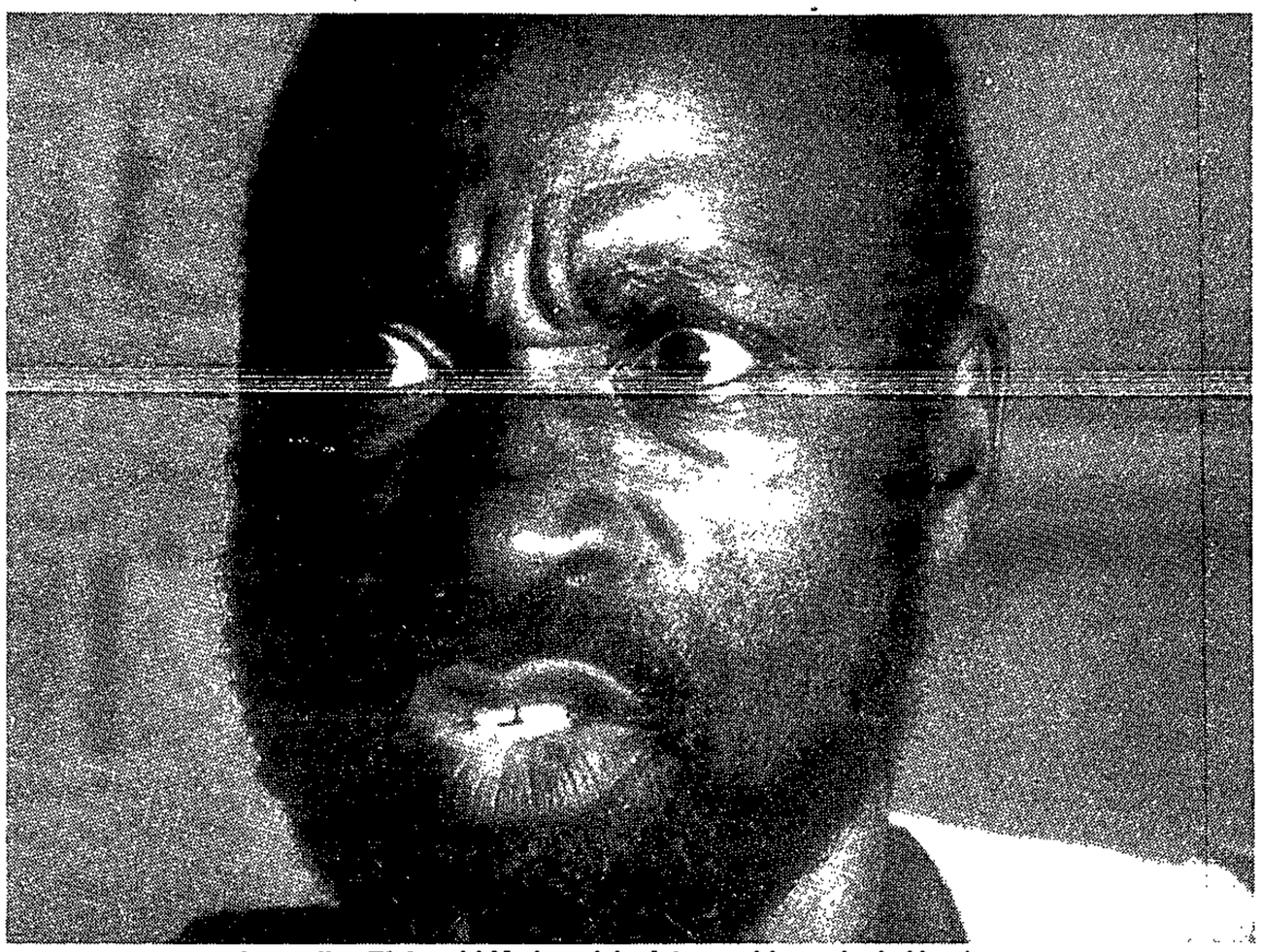
But the killings continued and there were repeated reports of people being abducted and their dismembered bodies found in the veld. Popular legend has it that Tshivase's brother was a scapegoat for murders committed by the then minister of justice.

In 1988 a spate of killings sparked a massive four-day stayaway in Venda — the first signs that the once passive "homeland" was on the boil. Tshivase was forced to resign and a commission was appointed to investigate.

The multiple use of a corrupted form of an ancient Venda tradition explains the unprecedented levels of collective terror that grips the minds of people.

There is a popular sense that the corruption of the traditional social order by the post-independence bureaucracy was accompanied by a gross manipulation of the metaphysical order by the homeland's new rulers.

And — like the medieval subjects of Shakespeare's plays who believed that Macbeth's assassination of King Duncan caused confusion in the firmament — the people of Venda be



Poet and freelance journalist, Risimathi Mathunzi insists zombies exist in Venda

Picture: AVIGAIL UZI, Afrapix

The old zombie wood-collector

RISIMATHI MATHUNZI relates a tale from his childhood, which the poet insists is true, to demonstrate that zombies exist in Venda.

"In the village of Chiozi, where I lived as a boy, there was an old man called Mokotoni. He was very good at collecting wood.

"One day he never returned to the village. The people found his cart on the side of the road with the donkeys grazing grass next to it.

"A week later Mokotoni came home looking weak and frightened. 'They took me to a place in the mountains where I saw many people who have died. They said they wanted me because I am good at collecting firewood. I'm only here because I asked them to let me collect my donkeys. After two days I will leave again."

"The people laughed at him and thought he must have fallen and got confused. I remember there was only one man in the village who said, 'Hey, take this man to a healer. If you do not, he is going to die.' The village laughed at him.

"Mokotoni went and collected his donkeys from the place he left them. And sure enough, after two days he died. After a while, the people wanted to see if it was true that he had been bewitched. They opened his grave and they found his corpse was gone.

"In its place was a log of wood."

W/M and 23/3-29/3/90 (113)

Remains of ritual murder found in Magoebaskloof in Gazankulu, far Northern Transvaal

Picture: STEVE HILTON-BARBER, Afrapix

lieve that the abuse of the supernatural explains the misfortune that has befallen them since "independence".

"There are tales about people giving birth to animals and calves being born with five hooves. We greet each other by saying *vhaisala* — the people are hurting," says Mathunzi. Even the drought that devastated farming communities for most of the 1980s was ascribed to witchcraft.

"And when a man is poor he does not believe he is so because of social forces. He is so because he has been bewitched. Every small misfortune is blamed on the witches of the land."

In the minds of many, the struggle against oppression in Venda is both a fight against the homeland government and a vendetta against the witches that collude to keep the people in misery.

Witches provide an explanation for hardship as well as an active way to remove the agents of oppression: by burning those who disrupt their social lives and abuse the supernatural for personal rather than collective gain.

This view has become so pervasive that even local community disputes generate accusations of witchcraft that frequently end in burnings. And the phenomenon is not restricted to Venda. There have been frequent reports of witch-burnings from the rural areas of Gazankulu and Lebowa as well.

Says Vincent Maluleke, youth activist from the nearby homeland of Gazankulu: "Our people are struggling for freedom and happiness. Now, many of them have never experienced naked racism. Most of the youth have not even met a white man. When they think about the struggle they think of issues that affect directly and intimately. These issues are work, water and witches."

Mpaphuli, a member of the United Democratic Front exective in the Far North, told the *Weekly Mail* that this was a difficult problem for the UDF.

"The issue is a very complex one. It is true that witches are killed by people who carry our colours and sing our slogans. We are dealing with something embedded in our culture. But does it mean that people must die because of our culture? A position has to be adopted by organisations."

A paper circulated by the Far Northern Transvaal Co-ordinating Committee of the UDF on superstition and the struggle says large numbers of rural people have joined the struggle against homeland independence since the release of jailed ANC leaders.

"We have seen our people, even from the remote rural areas, declaring their support for the liberation movement — the youth from these remote villages embark on a campaign of witch-hunting. Those who have been involved in this campaign are totally convinced that by witch-hunting they are advancing the national democratic struggle," the paper says.

Significantly, it does not defy the popular belief that witches haunt the homeland: "If witchcraft does exist, why can't we find a way of identifying those practising it and instead of killing them ask them to join us in the struggle so that they can use their magic against our common enemy?"

But others feel differently. A Thohoyandou resident said that leniency toward the witches would provide them with a licence to wreak misfortune on the people.

"When we say 'away with Ravele', we say away with his witchcraft. There is a feeling that once Mandela and the ANC is there, the witches will be sniffed out. Before we remove this Republic of Venda, we must get rid of the witches.

"I say we should round up all the witches in Venda and take them to the stadium in Thohoyandou where they can all be shot."

Where the evil lies

F/M 23/3/90

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It was more than macabre symbolism when a crowd of over 3 000 people marched to President Frank Ravele's office in Thohoyandou, Venda, carrying as their standard a bleached skull suspended on a stick and demanding his government's resignation.

Scratch deep enough and almost every "unrest" incident in Venda has witchcraft or ritual murder at its roots. It is common cause among residents — and now admitted by government — that ritual murders are not properly investigated, or are covered up, because ministers and officials are involved.

The skull brandished by the demos was purportedly that of Makumbazwilavhi, an old woman who once lived in Mbilwe village.

The Minister of Local Government and Chief of Mbilwe, Milton Mphaphuli, has been suspended. In January, he was forced into hiding after villagers stoned him when he refused to respond to a "confession" by a fellow-villager that he had commissioned the ritual murder of Makumbazwilavhi. Four other accused were publicly executed by the villagers.

Police Commissioner Major-General Malaudzi refuses to say whether Mphaphuli is a suspect, adding that the police await forensic tests. "We cannot even identify if it is a man or a woman's skull, or human at all. As you know, there is little difference between the human skull and a baboon's."

One of the most notorious cases of alleged cover-up, the Vuwani case, is being reinvestigated, though the Le Roux inquiry (into the unrest in 1988 and investigation of ritual murders) rejected accusations of an official cover-up, merely indicating incompetence.

Ravele says that a primary conclusion reached by the commission — that unrest was caused by radicals and "revolutionary theology" — is being reassessed.

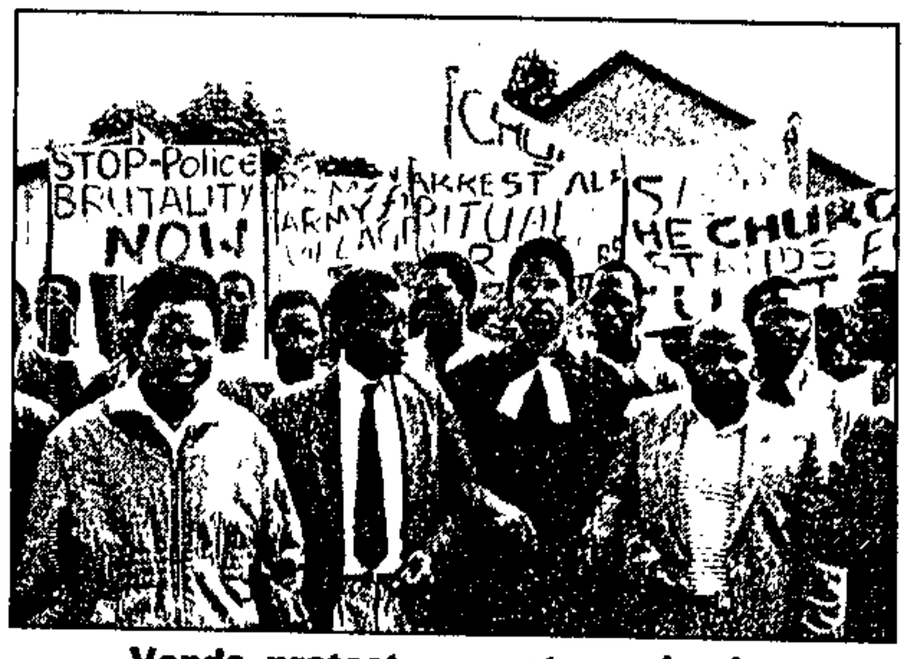
In an interview with the *FM*, Ravele revealed that he is to purge his government to get rid of its reputation for corruption and being above justice. The task will not be easy, as powerful figures are involved.

At a special sitting of parliament, called after the "skull march", some MPs called for the resignation of Ravele's government. Their leader was A A Tshivhase, ex-Minister of Police, Justice, Prisons, National Assembly and the Public Service Commission. Tshivhase, the strong man of Venda politics under late President-for-Life Patrick Mphephu, was forced to resign after being implicated, directly and indirectly, in numerous cases of ritual murder and cover-up.

Malaudzi and Director-General of National Intelligence M T Mutshaeni are both close friends of Tshivhase.

Mutshaeni was a suspect in the disappearance of a two-and-a-half-year-old boy. Mutshaeni's brother-in-law alleged they had both commissioned the ritual killing of the infant to further mutual business interests. Though the case was dropped because it was "too flimsy," top government sources say Mutshaeni is again under investigation. Other top officials have also been named.

Even if Ravele gets rid of this clique, there are doubts as to the stability of his government following a civil service and school stayaway which has lasted a month.



Venda protest ... not so simple

While he claims members of his single-party state have credibility as genuine leaders, he concedes that "without the loyal servant who has done his job properly, we would be like Ciskei and Transkei ... Other homelands had blacks in charge of their defence forces. We are stable here because of Brigadier Steenkamp — a white."

But who does Steenkamp, who is seconded from the SA Defence Force to head the Venda Defence Force, really answer to? Community leaders say a clergy-led march on Friday March 16 showed just how little say government has. The march was approved by the chief magistrate, but marchers were stopped by a powerful security contingent, led by seconded SADF officers.

Ravele's unpopularity was confirmed at the funeral of a woman killed at the climax of the "skull march". More than 50 000 people filled the Makwarela stadium and called for Ravele's resignation, as well as the arrest of all ritual murderers.

That the outbreak of public executions of perceived ritual murderers coincided with the unbanning of anti-government organisations in SA (and, more recently, in Venda) is not coincidental. The homelands subverted the traditional political system. Centralised power replaced the semi-autonomous village headman system. Puppet chiefs are mouthpieces for government decisions, which are often unpopular locally. As one government source says: "The chiefs have lost power, but who has it now, I don't know."

The answer seems to be — in the hands of ANC structures. The ANC has massive popularity. Youth groups in every village and town dictate community politics, much as traditional structures once did.

Far from being an isolated incident, the Mbilwe case is repeated throughout Venda. Village after village has similar tales. The blackened remains of huts are in evidence everywhere. There have been at least 40 witchcraft or ritual murder-related deaths this year.

"Whether this power actually exists is not so much the issue as people's belief in it," says a churchman. "People live in fear. Those who are superstitious fear witches will have them possessed by spirits or made into a zombie; those who are not, nevertheless fear falling victim to a muti murderer, or being poisoned."

Even many educated people admit to belief in witchcraft. But fear of being a victim of muti murder needs no superstitious grounding — it is a reality.

As long as the beliefs persist, muti murders will exist alongside Western life, as will public executions. Government is seen as corrupt, nepotistic and using dark powers to hold on to power.

Venda is in political turmoil. Ravele has said that independence was "a mistake" and that a referendum to gauge people's wishes concerning reincorporation will be held late this year or early next. Realistically, he does not seem to have that much time.

Sebastian Balic

Sowetan 23/3/90

Venda puts off session sitting

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Venda government yesterday announced that the official opening of the homeland's national assembly today had been postponed indefinitely.

The announcement came amidst advanced preparations by the United Democratic Front to stage a march to the assembly today to protest the continued existence of the assembly and the homeland. (113)

It was not clear yesterday whether today's march would still go ahead despite the postponement.

Making the announcement, the director general for information and broadcasting, Mr L Ramavhoya, said a second special session this month would instead be held next Friday.

The session would deal with constitutional amendments and budget issues.

He said the constitutional amendments to be dealt with were not to disband the homeland but to make it possible for extra-parliamentary organisations that have been unbanned to participate in the homeland's politics.

President Frank Ravele emphasised last week during another special session of the assembly that the immediate disbanding of the homeland was out of question.

He rejected a demand by organisations such as the UDF and the Azanian Peoples' Organisation that the homeland be immediately re-incorporated into South Africa.

More than 40 000 people at Ha-Mashau marched to the local police station on Wednesday to denounce independence and demand the release of youths arrested during other protest marches.

CAPE TIMES 23/3/90 (113)

Venda Assembly in limbo

THOHOYANDOU. — The official opening of the Venda National Assembly scheduled for today has been postponed indefinitely.

Instead, a special session will be held on March 30 to discuss constitutional amendments.

The postponement comes in the wake of protest marches demanding reincorporation into South Africa. President Frank Ravele has rejected these calls and called for a referendum on the issue.

● In Garankuwa, Bophuthatswana, yesterday thousands of chanting people took part in the funeral of six people shot dead when Bophuthatswana security forces opened fire on a crowd demanding a return to South Africa. — Sapa

Suspended minister is charged

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE suspended Venda minister of local government and land tenure, chief Milton M Mphaphuli, has been charged with the murder of a woman who disappeared without trace from Mbilwi Village in 1987.

Mphaphuli (43), and five others,three men and two women, appeared in the Thohoyandou Regional Court on Wednesday and were not asked to plead.

The state alleges that Mphaphuli and the others murdered Mrs Tshinakaho "Makumbazwilavhi" Magidi on September 17, 1987.

A skull found near Mbilwi last week was claimed by residents to be that of Mrs Magidi and calls were then made for the immediate dismissal and arrest of Mphaphuli.

President Frank Ravele suspended Mphaphuli last Tuesday but said he could not order his arrest because police investigation into the allegations were still going on.

Mphaphuli was arrested on Tuesday and appeared in court on Wednesday.

The other accused are: Mr Nkhelebeni Vhuromu (34), Mrs Rosinah Muhali (51), Mr Maungedzo Davies Marageni (45), Mr Edward Ngobeli (53) and Mrs Masindi Tshikororo (43).

Custody

They all appeared before Mr T J Raulinga and the case was postponed to March 27. All are in custody.

In a related incident yesterday, police found a suspect in the same murder case dead. Mr Ernest Nemagovhani's body was found under a tree at Thohoyandou.

He had apparently hanged himself with a wire and the head was severed from the body and still attached to the tree.

Police commissioner lieutenant general T R Mulaudzi said Nemagovhani had been missing for several days. He said the body was already rotting when it was found yesterday morning.

Star 23/3/90 (113)

Venda likely to unban ANC

By Dirk Nel, Northern Transvaal Bureau

A special session of the Venda National Assembly is to be held on March 30 to give effect to several promises made by President Frank Ravele.

Earlier this month, President Ravele undertook to unban the ANC and other organisations so tat they could participate in political activities in the territory. He said Venda would become a multiparty state.

The constitution is likely to be altered during the special session to meet these measures. The question of South Africa's future relationship with Venda is also likely to be raised during the session.

President Ravele has already announced that a referendum would to be held soon in this regard.

The Venda department of parliamentary affairs has announced that the official opening of the Venda assembly, scheduled for today, has been postponed indefinitely.

500 Venda policemen on work stoppage

Sowetan 28/3/90

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By MATHATHA TSEDU

MORE than 500 policemen in Venda stopped work on Monday demanding higher wages and the resignation of the commissioner of police, it was confirmed yesterday.

Police Commissioner Lieutenant-General T R Mulaudzi said he and the minister of police, Chief T T Ramabulana, and other senior police officers had held discussions at Sibasa with the affected policemen.

Mulaudzi said the major grievance centred around the policemen's rejection of the 10 percent salary increase due to be implemented on April 1 for all government employees. He confirmed that a demand for his resignation had also being made.

Freedom songs

He said Chief Ramabulana had addressed some of the problems raised and the salary issue was being attended to. The policemen came from different stations and areas but all stations had been able to continue functioning despite the move.

Sources in the area said the policemen, singing freedom songs, had started arriving at Sibasa from early morning. They included uniformed and security police. The unprecedented action follows the handing of a memorandum to Mulaudzi last month which detailed several grievances.

Alleged witches

Mulaudzi also announced that a 35-year-old man was shot dead at Tshidzivhe village when police opened fire to disperse a crowd of over 3 000 people who were burying four alleged witches alive.

The man was identified as Mr Asiehanga Ruben Mugivhela. The four people, who were already in their graves, were rescued, Mulaudzi said.

Venda bomb blasts

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LOUIS TRICHARDT. — Six bombs have exploded in Venda since Friday. CAPE TIMES 2/4/90

A spokesman for the Venda Defence Force said a transformer was damaged by a blast in the Sibasa area on Saturday morning.

An electricity sub-station at Sibasa, offices of the Department of Health at Thohoyandou and a bottle store at Thitekere were also damaged by explosions.

There were another two blasts at an electricity sub-station in Thohoyandou.

The origin and nature of the explosive devices have not been established. The cost of the damage is still being assessed. — Sapa

Blasts in Venda

113

Sowetan 21/4/90

By MATHATHA TSEDU

VENDA was rocked by four bomb blasts on Friday as the civil strife in the homeland took a new turn.

One of the bombs demolished a bottlestore owned by the controversial MP and former Minister of Justice, Mr AA Tshivhase.

Another, which exploded at about 2am, damaged the door and windows of the Department of health's offices, adjacent to the office of Mr Frank Ravele, president of the homelamnd.

The third bomb, which exploded at midday, damaged an electrical sub-station at Sibasa.

The fourth exploded in the central business district.

Police Commissioner Lieutenant T R Mulaudzi confirmed the explosions but said he did not have information about the type of devices used. No one was injured.

Three more bombs were found and detonated by members of Venda's defence force.

The explosions came hours before a special session of the legislative assembly convened to pass legislation to unban political organisations, and the last explosion three hours after the Venda national assembly had approved legislation to revert to a multi-party system.

Venda police chief resigns

THOHOYANDOU — The crisis gripping Venda following the sit-in by civil servants deepened yesterday when nurses and policemen joined and the commissioner of police resigned after pressure from his subordinates.

The Minister of Police, Chief T T Ramabulana, confirmed that Lieutenant-General T R Mulaudzi had resigned, but said policemen had all returned to work after he had met them.

He said General Mulaudzi had resigned because of pressure.

Nurses from the Donald Fraser and Tshilidzini hospitals left the hospitals unattended to join the demand for salary parity with their South African counterparts. Star 4/4/90 (113)

Promise

Sources in the area said the only other hospital in the homeland, Siloam, had also joined the sit-in.

Workers from Donald Fraser and Tshilidzini converged at Thohoyandou from early yesterday and joined hundreds of other civil servants who have been on a sit-in since last Tuesday.

President Frank Ravele last week promised the officials a new set of salary scales by Friday, but on Monday issued a warning that those who continued with the sit-in would not be paid.

He also announced a major shake-up of the top bureaucracy, moving three officials from the Public Service Commission to other departments.

Some officials from the Health Ministry on Monday marched to the offices of Radio Thohoyandou to bring back the deputy director of their department, who had been transfered to Information and Broadcasting.

The official, Mr Johannes Tshioloili, is now back at the health department, in violation of a presidential transfer order.

The resignation of General Mulaudzi shocked many people yesterday.

A former security policeman, he was appointed commissioner of police and chief of the defence force at independence in 1979.

Chief Ramabulana said yesterday that a replacement would be named by the president soon, perhaps today.

General Mulaudzi canme under increasing pressure after allegations that police were not investigating cases of ritual killings. His juniors also joined the chorus for his resignation.

Yesterday's announcement of his resignation came after a meeting at which the police demanded he went.

No senior officials of government were available for comment on the sit-in yesterday. — Sapa.

Probe told of waste in education

Books valued at R3-m unused

By MATHATHA TSEDU

SCHOOL books valued at more than R3 million were found lying in several offices of the Lebowa Education Department last month while children in the homeland boycotted classes because of lack of books, the De Meyer Commission heard yesterday.

In a day of startling evidence, Johannesburg chief magistrate and chairman of the commission, Mr OA de Meyer, heard in Lebowakgomo that:

* Exercise and textbooks were stored in private houses at the Bolobedu circuit. Clerks left girlfriends in the houses during the day, with unlimited and uncontrolled access to the books.

* Large quantities of Shangaan textbooks were found at a high school in Seshego where no student was studying the language.

* Several circuit offices and schools visited by investigators did not have any register of books. Teachers fetched books from storerooms without signing for them.

Mr M J Phalakatshela, a commission investigator, said a Mrs Masipa, who was in charge of the storeroom containing books at the Ramakgopa circuit office, said she had found more than 1 000 boxes of exercise books at the office when she started working there in 1987.

Phalakatshela said he had visited Rampo High School nearby and had found pupils on a class boycott demanding books.

Investigator Mr P J Bester described similar findings at other circuit offices. Books found in all the offices were new and could have cost over R3 million.

Implats in R250m Lebowa scheme

Cape Times 4/4/90

JOHANNESBURG. — An Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd offshoot signed a mineral lease yesterday setting the stage for development by 1994 of a new R250-m mine in SA's north-eastern tribal homeland Lebowa.

Messina Platinum Mines, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Messina Ltd in which Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd (Implats) has a controlling interest, was granted sole rights over part of the farm Zebediela, near the Lebowa capital Lebowakgoma.

This, along with similar deals to be signed soon in respect of the nearby farms Voorspoed and Doornvlei, will grant Messina platinum rights to mineral reserves with a 14km strike length.

Implats executive director Brian Gilbertson said work on the new mining venture is to start as soon as possible.

Early estimates indicate the first phase of the proposed mine, which will have a milling capacity of 60 000 tons monthly, will cost some R250m.

This phase, which will provide jobs for about 2 000 people, is to be completed by the start of 1994.

Production is scheduled to be expanded eventually to 160 000 tons monthly, at which stage the number of mine employees would have doubled.

The ore body lies between 50 and 3 000 metres, and ore can be extracted concurrently from the Merensky and UG2 reefs.

Gilbertson said Implats, the world's second biggest platinum producer, needed to expand its output significantly to meet the increasing demand from its customers. — Reuter

Star 5/4/90

Strike by Venda workers resolved

By Dirk Nel,
Northern Transvaal Bureau

THOHOYANDOU — Government workers in Venda returned to their jobs yesterday after reaching an agreement with the Venda Cabinet.

The civil servants, who had been staging a sit-in for more than a week, were represented in the discussions by an interim committee.

The main issue was a demand that salaries be brought into line with those in South Africa, a government spokesman said.

After an undertaking by the Cabinet to give the matter urgent attention, the civil servants agreed to resume work. By yesterday afternoon, all departments were reported to be functioning normally. Hospital services were not unduly affected by the brief participation of nurses in the sit-in.

Pupils and students are still boycotting classes.

Sowetan 5/4/90 (113)

irsday April 5 1990

Mass protests cripple Venda

By MATHATHA TSEDU

SEVERAL thousand people - led by priests - yesterday marched to the South African Embassy in Sibasa, Venda, to demand re-incorporation and the release of detainees held by the South African Security Police.

Marchers took to the streets amid growing tension in the homeland where mass protests by civil servants and police and a consumer boycott to demand the resignation of the government have characterised the week.

* On Tuesday Police Commissioner Lt-Gen TR Mulaudzi, was forced out of office by non-commissioned officers.

Earlier, police had staged a sit-in to force the government to appoint a commission of enquiry into police corruption and only returned to work when Mulaudzi was discharged.

* Yesterday, nurses and prison warders joined the two-week sit-in by civil servants - who are demanding more pay. The strikers yesterday massed at Thohoyandou where they spent the day singing freedom songs.

*Shops and businesses belonging to Venda MPs were boycotted to put pressure on them to resign. One MP, Mr Jessie Muthige, resigned on Monday.

The Sibasa marchers - carrying ANC and SACP flags - were met at the embassy by a diplomatic official, TL Steyn, who told them the ambassador was not in.

The angry crowd, led by the Rev Z Nevhutalu, warned Steyn that State President FW de Klerk and the ambassador would bear the consequences of their "shabby treatment".

Venda coup: FW gives assurance

STAR 6/4/90 (113)

Staff Reporters

The lawlessness of the recent coup in Ciskei would not be repeated in Venda, President de Klerk said last night.

He told a press conference only hours after yesterday's bloodless coup in Venda that the South African Government would give the small homeland in the northern Transvaal whatever assistance was needed to protect lives and property and maintain law and order.

The resignation of Venda President Mr Frank Ravele and his Cabinet was announced on Radio Thohoyandou shortly after 3 pm by Deputy Venda Defence Force chief Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana (48), who said he would be taking over leadership of the country.

No reasons were given for the president's resignation, and his fate is not known.

Colonel Ramushwana said the former Cabinet's "maladministration and incompetence of statesmanship had forced him to take over".

He declared a state of emergency and said there would be no work until Monday.

Shortly after his radio address, thousands of chanting people filled Thohoyandou's streets, dancing and singing their way to the government buildings where Colonel Ramushwana later spoke to a crowd of about 20 000.

Standing on top of a military vehicle, he said: "Today, you, the people of Venda, have witnessed the rebirth of Venda ...

"Ravele's regime has ended, and I have dismissed the chief of the VDF, Brigadier P G Steenkamp.

"On Monday we will form a council for national unity, with me as chairman."

Colonel Ramushwana cautioned the crowd against being emotional and damaging property.

He said a press conference would be held at the government buildings at noon today.

First indications of dramatic new developments in the territory came on Tuesday when Lieutenant-General T R Mulaudzi, the Venda Commissioner of Police, who was known to be fiercely loyal to President Ravele, announced his resignation.

President Ravele's government had been under constant pressure since January amid widespread boycotts, work stayaways and unrest.

There had been allegations of cor-

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Venda coup: FW gives assurance

● From Page 1

ruption, including charges from various quarters that members of the government had been involved in ritual murders and that police had tried to cover up for prominent members of the government.

President Ravele took office in April 1988 after the death of President Patrick Mphephu.

Since that date his government has had a rough ride, and there have been repeated calls for his resignation.

The situation was calm throughout Venda last night, and there were no signs of a repetition of the violence and looting which accompanied a similar coup in Ciskei last month.

Mr de Klerk, speaking about the apparent collapse of the homeland policy, said the structures could not be scrapped without being replaced.

This would lead to chaos and anarchy.

If so, South Africa would have to step in.

Cape Funfinder Inside

FOUNDED 1876 ☎ 208 491

Cape Times 6/4/90 (113)

Army coup in Venda

THOYOYANDOU. — The entire government of the nominally independent Venda homeland resigned yesterday leaving the deputy chief of the Venda Defence Force, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, to step into power.

Colonel Ramushwana told Venda by way of a broadcast over Radio Thoyoyandou that he intended being in charge of the homeland until it was reincorporated into a new South Africa.

The ousted president of Venda, Chief Frank Ravele, is understood to have written a letter which announced that he and his entire government were resigning.

Colonel Ramushwana's announcement came at 3.10pm. He said he had assumed power and that the army chief, Brigadier H Steenkamp, had been forced to resign and leave the homeland immediately.

Colonel Ramushwana announced a commission of inquiry into government corruption and nepotism and said that while former government officials had not been taken into custody, they would be brought to book and jailed if found guilty.

He also announced a commission of inquiry into the ritual murders which have racked the homeland for several months.

He said the ANC, UDF, PAC, SACP and other political parties were welcome to talk to him but warned they would not be allowed to demonstrate or forcibly propagate their goals in the homeland. No intimidation would be allowed, he said.

The coup was greeted with singing and dancing in the streets.

The South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, last night confirmed the resignation of the Venda government.

Mr Botha said a report about the resignation of Mr Ravele and the take-over by the army had been received from the SA ambassador's office in Venda.

"The South African government had called upon Colonel Ramushwana to avoid all forms of violence," Mr Botha said.

President FW de Klerk said yesterday that the government planned to give "whatever assistance it could" to Venda "to ensure we don't have a repetition of what happened in the Ciskei". — Political Correspondent and Sapa

ANC had 'no role' in Venda takeover

Star 7/4/90

(113)

DIRK NEL

THOHOYANDOU — The new Venda head of state, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, who was sworn in shortly after noon yesterday by Chief Justice D J H le Roux, says the African National Congress has played no role in the government takeover by his National Council of Unity.

At a press conference in the Venda capital, Colonel Ramushwana said the ANC would operate, along with others, as an ordinary political party. But he warned no party would be allowed to force its views upon the people of Venda by means of intimidation.

Colonel Ramushwana did not announce the names of other members of the Council of National Unity, but indicated that traditional chiefs would play an important role in the future government of Venda. He said the names of his appointed co-rulers would be released shortly.

"The Venda nation has in the last few years suffered grossly as a result of bad government.

● TO PAGE 2.

Venda

Star 7/4/90

● FROM PAGE 1.

"Teachers, scholars, civil servants, nurses, labourers and other workforces have taken part in boycotts, and law and order has collapsed. Vhavenda killed fellow Vhavenda and lawlessness prevailed — all because of grievances which the previous government could not address or attend to," he explained.

The colonel said it was apparent that President Ravele's government had been unable to control the situation and it was appropriate that the president and his Cabinet had to resign, and handed the government over to the council without bloodshed.

(113)

He said the previous government members had done this by means of a letter of which a copy was handed to newsmen. He added that the Chief of the Venda Defence Force, Brigadier J Steenkamp, was compelled to resign and would be leaving Venda.

Colonel Ramushwana undertook to appoint a commission of inquiry headed by "an independent jurist" to investigate all ritual murders, corruption and nepotism, and to make its findings available to the ruling council.

113

Venda: Youths abuse new ruler

THOHOYANDOU. — Thousands of Venda youths packed the National Stadium here yesterday and shouted abuse at the new military ruler of the homeland.

The youths, numbering over 10 000, were part of a crowd estimated at 15 000 which gathered at the stadium to hear Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana at his first public engagement.

The youths, who were wearing ANC T-shirts, chanted "Voetsek, voetsek", "Away with Ramushwana" and "Viva ANC" as the colonel continued to read the speech that he had read the previous day announcing reasons for the coup.

The South African Defence Force has been present in the homeland for the past two weeks since Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha announced that the South African government would not stand by idly while the Venda government was being subjected to intimidation.

Troops of both the Venda Defence Force and the SADF are currently patrolling the homeland's urban streets.

At a press conference held before he was was sworn in by the homeland's chief justice yesterday, Col Ramushwana said political organisations such as the ANC, PAC and Azapo were welcome to operate in Venda if they did not intimidate people to join their activities.

THOHOYANDOU. — Venda's new leader, Colonel Gabriel Mutheiwana Ramushwana, is a former South African security policeman who at one time allegedly infiltrated the ANC in Lusaka.

Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana was born at Messina on July 1, 1941. He worked as a clerk at the Messina mines from 1962 to 1965.

He joined the South African Police in 1966 and transferred to the security branch the following year.

He joined the Venda National Force, which was a combined force of police, army, prisons and traffic departments, in 1978, a year before independence.

He became deputy chief of security police until he was transferred to the Venda Defence Force in 1985. He was promoted to colonel the same year and became Chief of Staff in 1985.

Marrried with four childfen, Colonel Ramushwana speaks 19 black languages as well as English and Afrikaans. During his service as a security policeman, he infiltrated the ANC in Lusaka until he was withdrawn by the police. — Sapa

He said Thursday's military takeover was not prompted by similar actions in other independent homelands.

Col Ramushwana said he was called back by "authorities" from a military course in Pretoria to take over government. He said his former chief, Brigadier P G Steenkamp, was forced to resign and leave Venda because he was found to be working against the "ideals of the Venda people".

He said a new cabinet comprising people from a cross-section of people would be announced in two weeks' time. Until then, he was sole member of the council.

He said elections might be held in future if so demanded by the people of Venda. However, the council's immediate task was to restore stability and law and order.

The press conference, held at the offices of the deposed president, was attended by a representative of the South African embassy, Mr T L Steyn, in what was seen by many journalists as a show of acceptance by the South African government.

Meanwhile, the chairman of Ciskei's new Military Council of State, Brigadier "Oupa" John Gqozo, yesterday said in a statement that the circumstances surrounding the military takeover of Venda were only superficially similar to what happened in Ciskei recently.

Brig Gqozo wished the colonel "God's blessing, good fortune and the support of all in Venda".

Brig Gqozo took power in Ciskei in a coup in March this year, ousting President Lennox Sebe from power. — Sapa

C/Press 8/4/90 (113)

nda 'will rejoin SA'

NEW VENDA

BY CHARLES MOGALE

First goal for Ramushwana is to restore law and order

THE VENDA homeland is headed for reincorporation into South Africa.

This came out in an interview with new military leader, Col Gabriela Ramushwana, who assumed power in a bloodless coup on Thursday.

Ramushwana, 49, took the reins after former President Frank Ravhele resigned – conceding he could not handle the chaotic situation in the homeland.

Venda has become the third homeland to fall under military rule in less than two years. The first was the Transkei, wrenched from the Matanzima brothers by Maj-Gen Bantu Holomisa. Then came the takeover of the Ciskei by Brig Oupa Gqozo.

Bophuthatswana briefly suffered a similar fate until South Africa intervened and crushed a military coup.

"In this case South Africa was caught by surprise," said Ramushwana.

Speaking to *City Press* at his Thohoyandou home yesterday, Ramushwana said: "We are just an interim government. First we need stability and law and order.

"There must be proper channels for reincorporation. Proper structures will have to be maintained and the whole thing will have to be done properly."

It was not necessary, he said, to hold a referendum on the matter because "all the people of South Africa are working towards that goal".

Ramushwana said all liberation movements were welcome to talk to him about operating in the homeland.

"I am not operating as the head of any political party. We just want to stabilise and normalise the situation."

Unrest in the homeland has brought the civil service to a virtual standstill, while education and other essential services have ground to a halt.

The homeland has also been torn apart by the implications of high ranking civil servants being involved in widespread incidents of ritual murder.

Ramushwana said he was called from Voortrekkerhoogte in Pretoria – where he was attending a military course under the SADF – because the situation in the homeland was out of control.

On his return, he assessed the situation, then confronted president Ravhele, who conceded he could not handle the situation. Ravhele and his cabinet resigned immediately.

Chief of the Venda Defence Force, Brig PG Steenkamp, was compelled to resign and leave the country immediately because he was perceived to "serve anti-Venda interests".

Ravhele is under protection and the Venda public had been asked not to seek revenge.

Ramushwana also announced that a night curfew introduced after the coup would be lifted last night.

The situation in the homeland has been calm since the coup. There has been a strong military presence in and around Thohoyandou, but no incidents of violence have been reported.

Instead, residents said security forces joined the people in chanting anti-apartheid and anti-homeland slogans.

Ramushwana revealed he would not be occupying the president's official residence.

"I am not doing this for personal gain. I am a people's man and I want it to remain that way."

Star 9/4/90

(113)

NEWS

Violence declines in Venda after coup

By Dirk Nel, Northern Transvaal Bureau

THOHOYANDOU — The situation in Venda was calm during the weekend, following the seizure of power by Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, who announced strong measures to deal with lawlessness.

There was a sharp decline in the violence which has become a feature of daily life in the tiny black state.

On Saturday, the new head of state rescinded the curfew he had ordered earlier. But the state of emergency remains in force.

Colonel Ramushwana received a mixed reception when he addressed a mass rally in the Venda Independence Stadium, shortly after being sworn in as head of state by the Chief Justice, Mr Justice D J H le Roux, on Friday.

Several thousand ANC supporters jeered during his speech, and many activists said afterwards that he was "just another Ravele" (a reference to the former President of Venda, Mr Frank Ravele, who resigned with his Cabinet on Thursday).

But the overall mood was one of relief that the previous regime had been deposed.

During a press conference in the Venda capital, Colonel Ramushwana said Mr Ravele and his Cabinet members would be protected by his Council of National Unity.

The new ruler's insistence that his government would not tolerate any corruption, nepotism, unproductivity or lawnessness will be sorely tested today, when Venda citizens are expected to return to work.

● See Page 15.

Call to rejoin Republic

Star 9/4/90

(113)

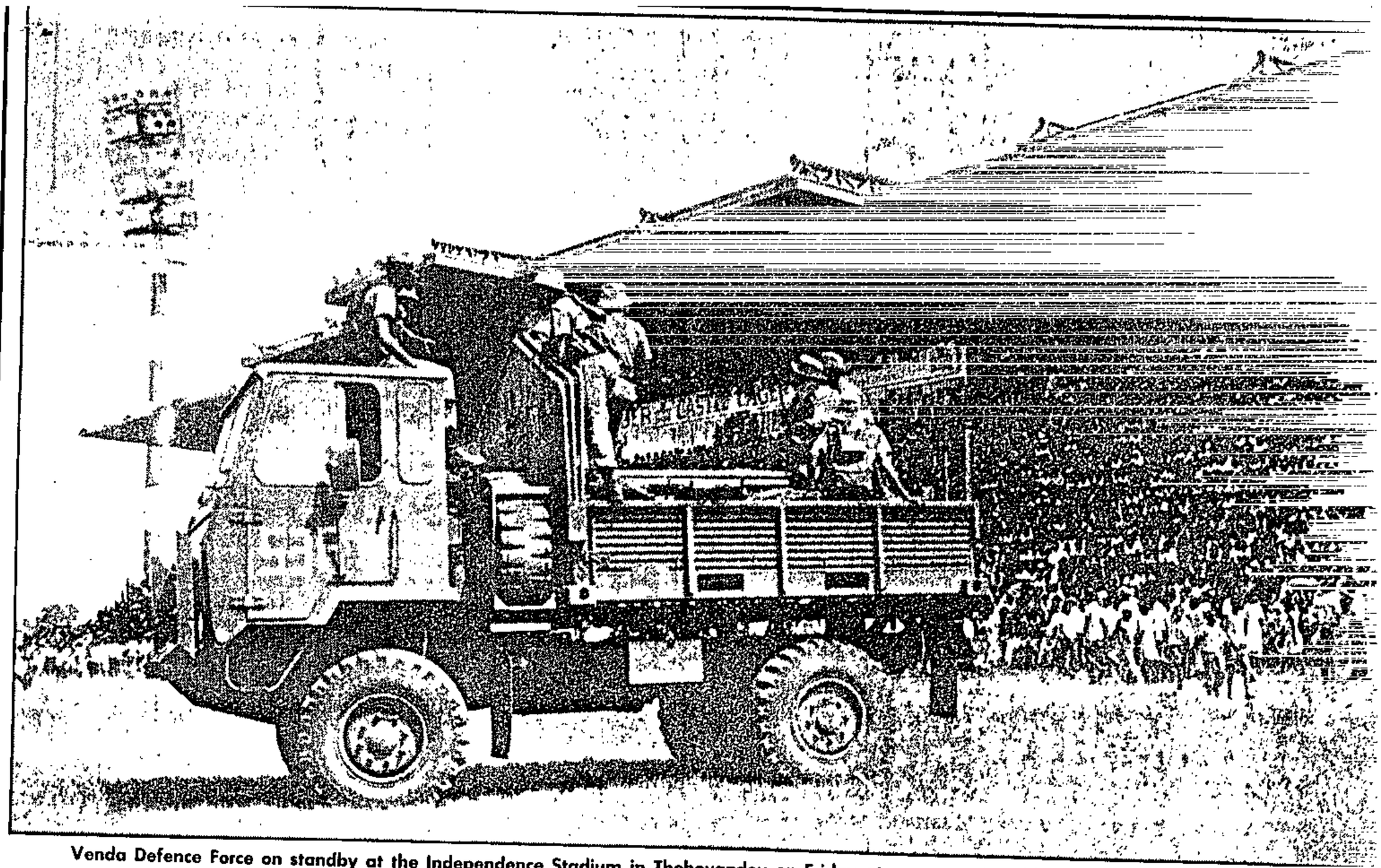
By Helen Grange

Elements of the Venda community, already suspicious of the intentions of their new leader, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, are calling for him to reincorporate Venda into South Africa with immediate effect, according to Mr Justice Nedzamba, spokesman for the Foundation for Education, Production, Investment, Trade and Employment Promotion Organisation.

Mr Nedzamba yesterday said the Venda community opposed a military government replacing former President Frank Ravele's "corrupt" rule.

"The Venda people don't wish the new government to establish another parliament. They wish to be reincorporated immediately," he said.

An informal defiance campaign had already begun as a result of Colonel Ramushwana implementing a curfew and a state of emergency.



Venda Defence Force on standby at the Independence Stadium in Thohoyandou on Friday at a mass rally addressed by the tiny homeland's new

Star 9/4/90 (113)

Ramushwana: military man

Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, who took control of Venda in a bloodless coup last week, is a former member of the South African Defence Force and the Security Police. He later joined the Venda National Force and worked his way up the ranks to become second-in-command in the Venda Defence Force. An outstanding linguist, Colonel Ramushwana is fluent in 19 languages, reports **DIRK NEL of The Star's Northern Transvaal Bureau.**

THOHOYANDOU — Venda's new head of State, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana (49), who took over control of the territory's government and armed forces on Thursday, is an outstanding linguist, trained with the South African Defence Force and is a former member of the Security Police.

Born and educated in Messina, in the far northern Transvaal, Colonel Ramushwana speaks no fewer than 19 languages, including English, Afrikaans, all South Africa's black languages, as well as Shona and Ndebele, the two major tongues of Zimbabwe.

His career path started in a mining office where he worked as a clerk but army life posed greater appeal and he joined the South African Defence Force.

Independence

After receiving comprehensive military training with the SADF, he became a member of the Security Police, and later joined the newly established Venda National Force, which combined police and military elements at the time of the territory's independence in 1979.

Colonel Ramushwana worked himself up through the ranks, to become second-in-command to Brigadier J Steenkamp in the Venda Defence Force — the man he fired last week when taking over as head of state. He also fired the chief of police, Lieutenant General T R Mulaudzi and President Frank Ravele and his Cabinet, who were permitted the privilege of resigning gracefully, by submitting a formal letter, in which they admitted they were unable to address Venda's problems and to contain the rising lawlessness.

Venda's new head of state, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, told the media at a press conference on Friday that his government would not tolerate lawlessness, corruption and irresponsibility.

After announcing his takeover on Radio Thohoyandou on Thursday afternoon, Colonel Ramushwana immediately imposed a curfew and banned the holding of all political and protest meetings.

From all accounts, the takeover was executed with brilliant timing and precision.

At 1 pm on Thursday, Radio Thohoyandou announced that an important statement would be broadcast at 3 pm. All telephone communications were cut, and the nation waited in suspense. At exactly 3 pm the new ruler came on the air to announce that he had taken over, and that the Cabinet had resigned.

Communications were immediately restored, and Colonel Ramushwana was hailed by a large crowd when he landed in a military helicopter at the government buildings at 8.20 pm.

Independence Stadium in Thohoyandou on Friday at a mass rally addressed by the tiny homeland's new head of state, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana.

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wana: military man, linguist

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Communications were immediately restored, and Colonel Ramushwana was hailed by a large crowd when he landed in a military helicopter at the government buildings at 3.20 pm.

The coup took place on the last day of the Venda school and university term, thus disposing of a possible backlash from scholars and students, who had already started to leave the capital for home.

Enforced

It was clear from a press conference on Friday that Colonel Ramushwana was someone to be taken seriously. He said law and order would be enforced, grievances would be addressed immediately, and the youth would be expected to resume their studies.

He indicated that Venda's reincorporation into South Africa was high on his agenda. This had been a strong demand by pro-ANC citizens in Venda. "The government is intent on maintaining peace and stability, and law and order until such time as Venda is incorporated into South Africa — whether unitary, confederal or whatever the greater South Africa will be," he told newsmen.

He said a wide cross section of people would be included in his Council of National Unity, which would rule the nation. He said he would be meeting the traditional chiefs of Venda shortly, and emphasised that they would play an important role in the future.

He was rather evasive about the reasons for his return to Venda at this particular point (during the past few weeks he had been attending a training course with the SADF). "I had no option but to act as I have done in the interests of the Venda people. The nation should see the Council of Unity takeover as the only step I personally had to take, so as to restore stability, and law and order".

Intimidation

He said the Venda nation had suffered greatly as a result of bad government, and claimed that President Ravele and his Cabinet had been unable to address grievances or to cope with the situation which had arisen.

Colonel Ramushwana added that the ANC would be treated like any other political party in Venda, but warned that intimidation by any party would be harshly dealt with.

He invited investors and businessmen to stay in Venda saying "we need them".

His acceptance by the people of Venda will clearly depend on how he handles the immediate pressing problems such as the education crisis, general strikes and boycotts, a deteriorating economy and growing unemployment.

Lebowa party agrees to disband

Sowetan 9/4/90 (111)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Lebowa Peoples Party of Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike yesterday resolved in principle to disband and join forces with any political organisation prepared to accept its members.

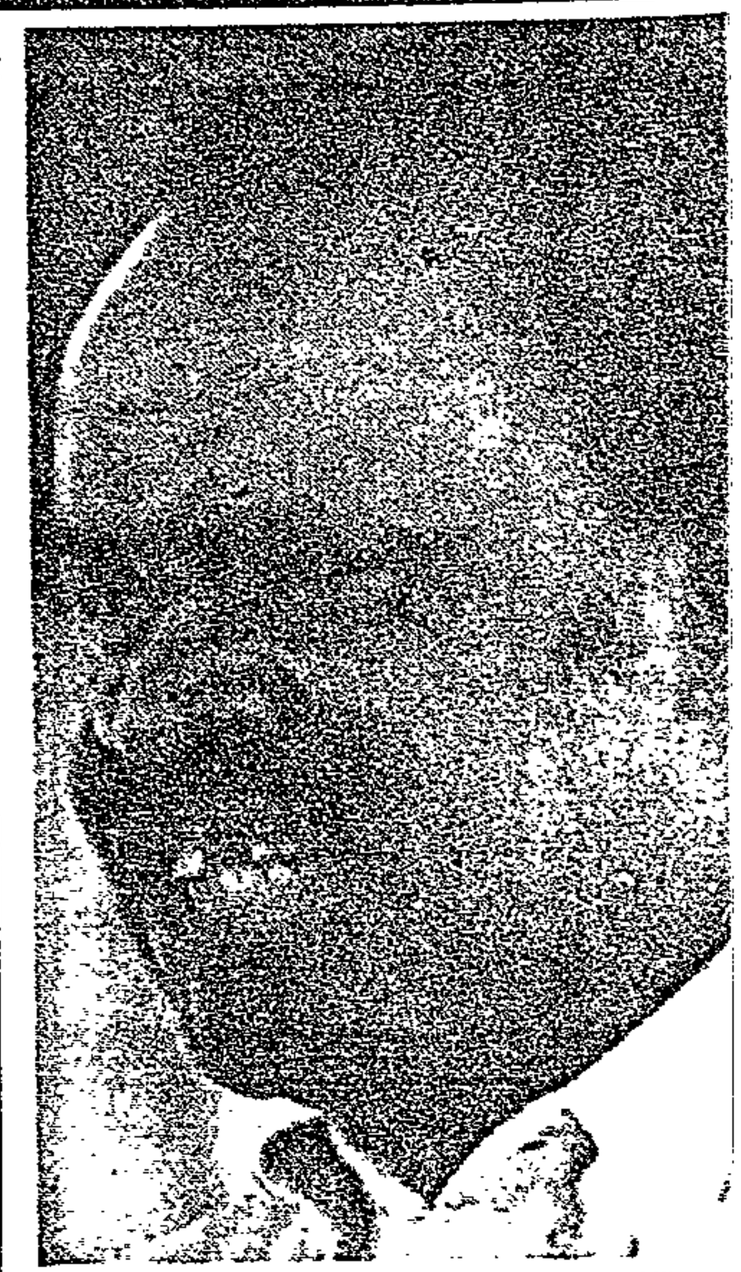
The resolution was adopted at the party's annual congress held at the Lebowakgomo Showgrounds. The congress was attended by representatives from 10 constituencies. Transkei military ruler General Bantu Holomisa and Democratic Party co-leader Mr Wynand Malan also attended.

Speaking to newsmen during a recess yesterday Ramodike said the LPP could not keep up with political developments because it was hampered by its ethnic base. Congress resolved that the party leadership would liase with all progressive organisations such as the African National Congress, Pan Africanist Congress and the Black Consciousness Movement.

Ramodike also revealed that ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela would visit Lebowakgomo soon to meet with chiefs in the bantustan. He said he had received an invitation for talks with PAC president Mr Zeph Mothopeng and recently released PAC member, Mr Jeff Masemola. Dates for both meetings had not yet been set, he said.

Ramodike said his party had called on State President F W De Klerk to delimitate the provinces on a non-racial basis as a step

● To page 2



NELSON RAMODIKE

Lebowa party to disband

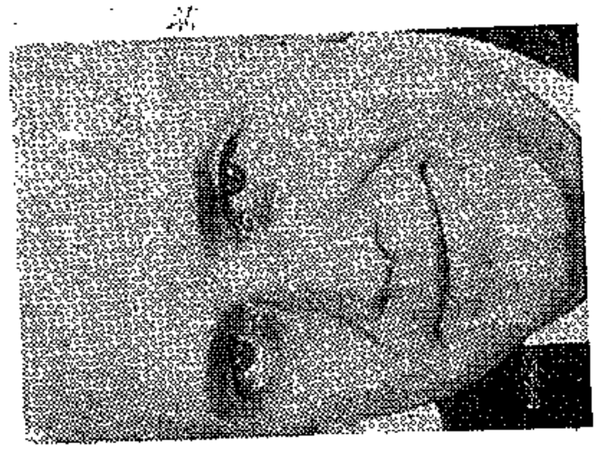
Sowetan 9/4/90 (111)

● From page 1

towards abolishing the bantustans. He said he and his government were not prepared to go into talks on a new and non-racial South Africa while bantustans still existed.

It was for this reason that he and the leaders of KaNgwane and KwaNdebele had called on De Klerk to pass legislation to scrap the bantustans. A working group was to be established to work out a joint approach towards the participation of leaders presently based in those areas. The working group will include Transkei.

* Ramodike also issued a statement yesterday in which he distanced himself and his government from the detentions last week of several United Democratic Front activists by South African security police. He said



FW DE KLERK

he had inquired about the detentions of Mr Louis Mnguni and Mr De-Witt Monakedi and had established that the two were being held under the state of emergency regulations "for alleged violence in Gazankulu and the Republic of Venda".

"The complainants are consequently the government of the above mentioned territories and not Lebowa," he said.

strike which was called off after the Minister of Justice had promised to address the issues.

Mlambo briefs Tanzanian leader

PAN Africanist Congress chairman Mr Johnson Mlambo this weekend met Tanzanian President Mr Ali Hassan Mwinyi at Ikulu in Dar es Salaam, a PAC representative said. Sowetan 9/4/90

Accompanied by a PAC delegation, Mlambo briefed Mwinyi on the current situation in South Africa, the PAC peace proposals, the movement's position on a united front with all liberatory forces and the establishment of a constituent assembly elected on the basis of one-person-one-vote.

"The constituent assembly will discuss the constitution for a democratic non-racial Azania," the spokesman said.

PAC hails Venda coup

THE collapse of the Venda government significantly strengthened the movement towards genuine democracy in South Africa, the external mission of the Pan Africanist Congress spokesman said at the weekend.

The PAC spokeman said the re-incorporation of the homelands into a united democratic South Africa was a central demand of the movement. 113

Festival rocked 'em

A HUGE crowd of music fans packed Nasrec's main arena in Crown Mines during the Easter Rock Festival at the weekend.

The accent was on rock-and-roll rhythms with the exception of Mahlathini and Mahotella Queens, Brenda Fassie, Chicco, Mike Faure and Steam Machine, Marcalex and Walk This Way who, like a fresh breeze, played mbaqanga, afro and township pop, disco and jazz tunes.

However, the predominantly white teeneyboppers gave all the artists a positive response while singing along with most of the songs.

Shouts of "*Amandla*" by the gutsy Fassie were met by throaty replies of *Awethu*.

The event was incident free.

'Ravele was threatened with arrest'

(113)

Sowetan 9/4/90

By MATHATHA TSEDU

PRESIDENT Frank Ravele and his Cabinet only agreed to hand over power to the military after they were threatened with arrest, highly placed police sources have disclosed.

Despite the announcement by the new military ruler, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, on Thursday that Ravele and his colleagues resigned voluntarily, the source said Ravele only signed the letter of resignation when confronted with the choice of resignation or imprisonment.

"It was very difficult. They were refusing. We told them that if they didn't resign we would arrest them and we would not be able to protect their properties if people started attacking them. It was only then that they agreed," the source said.

Ramushwana (49), took over the Venda government on Thursday in a bloodless coup.

Ramushwana told an international press conference at Thohoyandou on Friday that Ravele and his cabinet were being "well protected".

He said other members would be appointed to the Council for National Unity, which has taken over government within two weeks.

Demand

He said the re-incorporation of Venda into South Africa, a major demand of political organisations in the area, would only happen after the completion of negotiations about a new South Africa.

Ramushwana was shouted down by thousands of youths at the local stadium when he addressed his first rally on Friday afternoon. The youths said later that he was a puppet of Pretoria intent on blocking the advance of the "revolution".

The peculiar scenario that led to the coup

Sowetan 9/4/90

(113)

Venda was the natural choice

By MATHATHA TSEDU

NOVELISTS would be hard-pressed to come up with a script to better the events leading to the military take-over of the Venda government last week.

Imagine policemen on strike demanding, among other things, the immediate resignation of their commissioner, Lieutanant General TR Mulaudzi.

Imagine again, Mulaudzi actually succumbing and finding himself escorted home by young constables who search his house, take his subsidised car, government-issued firearms, uniforms and two-way radio - leaving him high, perplexed and dry.

Then you should also imagine nurses deserting their posts and marching, along with their patients, into a Cabinet Minister's office chanting revolutionary slogans in their Florence Nightingale uniforms.

Add to all that the spectacle of prison warders driving through the streets in government vehicles, singing freedom songs while hunting down a senior warder accused of heavy-handedness in his dealing with juniors.

Strike

Fortunately for the man, a certain Mr Tshivase, he had overheard the planning earlier and escaped from the prison headquarters by jumping over a four metre high fence landing belly first in mud.

Also included in this peculiar scenario was the now seemingly mundane civil servants strike which had brought the administration of this quasi-independent bantustan to a standstill for two weeks.

If ever there was a coup waiting to happen, Venda was the natural choice of venue.

Mulaudzi's downfall was more than just shocking. A few months ago it was unimaginable for anyone to suggest his resignation.

Strongman

Having allegedly started in the police force in Johannesburg by arresting a close relative who was fixing passes on the side for a fee, Mulaudzi reached his zenith when he was appointed chief of everything in uniform at Venda independence in 1979.

As commander of the Venda national force, he was in charge of the defence force, police, prisons and traffic. A former security police lieutenant, he was the strongman of the bantustan, something like Charles Sebe of Ciskei used to be. He was always at the side of the late president Chief Patrick Mphephu as the proverbial power behind the throne.

So when he was disgracefully forced out of his office, many people could not believe that indeed the mighty had fallen.

Mulaudzi had been accused of interfering in police investigations of ritual killings allegedly committed by his friends in high political and administrative places.

Cases cited include the arrest of the former Minister of Land Tenure and Local Government, Chief Milton Mphaphuli, who has since been charged with the murder of a woman who disappeared without trace from Mbilwi Village in 1987.

Dictatorial

Mphaphuli's arrest came only after residents had marched in the streets brandishing a human skull which they alleged was part of the woman's corpse.

There was also the case around suspended director general for intelligence, Mr Theo Mutshaeni. Despite statements made by other accused linking Mutshaeni to the ritual murder of a two-year-old boy, police did not arrest him.

It took an order from the Attorney-General more than a year later to get the police to act.

Even then, Mutshaeni was not arrested, but merely subpoenaed to appear in court and immediately granted bail. Mutshaeni is a friend of the general.

Mulaudzi has also been accused of oppression within the police force. Well-placed sources say he was running the police force in a dictatorial manner and demanded total subservience.

He had a serious confrontation with a senior officer only four days before his removal during which death threats were traded, according to a police source. The officer concerned died three days later in a car accident, a day before the general was forced out of office.

When on Tuesday April 3 police refused to work for the second time in less than a month, Mulaudzi's time was up. The bantustan had been the scene of unrest, school boycotts, teachers strikes and general work stayaways since the death of Mphephu two years ago. The government of Ravele had been accused of corruption, nepotism and theft.

Political organisations such as the ANC-supporting youth congresses and the Black Consciousness Movement-affiliated Azapo and Azayo had mobilised people against banutstan rulers, using the corruption and unsolved ritual killings as the launching pad.

Puppets

The political chicanery by rulers who changed laws overnight and back-dated them to stop people from contesting elections, did not endear the government to the inhabitants.

Unco-operative chiefs had been deposed and replaced with puppets, and recently Ravele appointed himself as chief, making his membership of the National Assembly automatic and life-long.

The lack of trade union legislation and the low wages earned in the bantustans were another factor. Wages in the fledgling industrial areas average R120 per month and recently an independent trade union, the Allied Worker's Union (AWU), was formed. Over 6 000 workers attended its first mid-week meeting, having stayed away from their jobs.

In this situation of crumbling authority the army, commanded by a South African-appointed official, Brigadier PG Steenkamp, remained the only force that stood by Ravele's government. This, anyway, is what it looked like until Thursday.

Bolster

Soldiers were deployed in all areas of Venda, virtually acting as policemen. The South African Defence Force was also brought in to bolster the VDF, patrolling streets in the capital and Sibasa in armoured vehicles.

The VDF's chief of staff and now sole member of the council for national unity, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana (49), was, during all these developments, attending an officers' course with the SADF at Voortrekkerhoogte in Pretoria.

He was summoned back to Venda on April 4 by what he terms "the authorities". He arrived in the capital at 4.30am on Thursday and, 12 hours later, Ravele and his cabinet had resigned. Steenkamp was on his way back to South Africa. Ramushwana had taken over and declared a state of emergency as the army took full control of the bantustan.

Venda acts on corruption

10/11/90 By Dirk Nel (113)

THOHOYANDOU — Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, who took over the government of Venda last Thursday, has acted swiftly after promising to root out corruption in the territory as soon as possible.

A government spokesman announced yesterday that a commission of inquiry had been appointed to investigate alleged corruption, nepotism and other irregularities attributed to the previous government of President Frank Ravele.

The commission has been instructed to refer its findings to Colonel Ramushwana's Council of National Unity as soon as possible.

Many schools have reopened and thousands of pupils have returned to classes in response to an appeal made on Friday by Colonel Ramushwana.

Civil servants were also back at work yesterday after weeks of wrangling with the previous government over a long list of grievances.

A previous demand for the adjustment of salaries to the same scale as those in South Africa is to be raised with Colonel Ramushwana, a spokesman for the civil servants interim committee said.

The situation throughout Venda has remained calm.

Venda coup joy may be short-lived

(113)

Sowetan 10/4/90

By MATHATHA TSEDU

FOCUS

WHEN in 1988 the Venda national assembly was recalled after being prorogued and asked to pass a retro-active law legalising the ban on some individuals from standing for elections, I met Colonel Gabriel Mutheiwana Ramushwana at the Venda Supreme Court where he was attending a case involving members of the defence force.

It was tea time and we were standing outside the court chatting as he smoked. About 300 metres from where we stood, the national assembly was in session, passing the Bill that was being back-dated to 1979.

When our discussion touched on the impropriety of the action which would effectively nullify a Supreme Court case challenging the ban, the colonel's response was: "it is all madness. This situation is wrong and rotten. They are all crooks and only a revolution can stop it."

Revolution

The remark, made in light-hearted discussion, came back to mind last Thursday when I learnt he had staged a coup.

Was this then the revolution that this former policeman had spoke about two years ago? I asked myself.

Be that as it mav. the events selves dramatic. Things had looked better that Thursday morning, with civil servants back on duty for the first time in two weeks following an agreement reached with the Cabinet.

Then just before lunch-time, soldiers were posted at various government buildings, while others drove in the streets with hooters blaring and clenched fists thumping the air.

The local radio station repeatedly broadcast a reminder that an important announcement would be made at 3pm and urged people to listen.

By 2.30pm crowds had

RAMUSHWANA

gathered at the main government buildings square, singing in anticipation of what by then had become an open secret.

When the announcement eventually came, officially that is, more crowds poured into the streets celebrating. Offices and businesses closed immediately.

Many headed for the stadium where an important rally was held. Army trucks transported people as soldiers joined in the singing and toyi-toyied.

It looked then as if the colonel was the people's man who had set them free from the tyranny of Ravele and his government. It was "Viva Ramushwana" allround.

The next day, at a Press conference in the Cabinet room of the former president, Ramushwana faced a motley group of media people and said he had no doubt his takeover enjoyed the support of the majority of Venda's inhabitants. The reaction of people the previous day was sure proof of that, he said.

But hardly an hour later when he faced about 15 000 people at the national stadium, he was booed, insulted and shouted down by youths chanting ANC slogans.

They sang throughout his speech, continuing with the harangue and making it impossible for anyone to hear him.

What had now gone wrong with the colonel's revolution? Where had all the euphoria of yesterday gone to?

The youths, wearing various versions of the "Welcome Home Mandela" T-shirts that have flooded the country, said in random interviews that Ramushwana was a puppet of the Pretoria government and had been brought in to save the falling Ravele dictatorship.

They criticised the State of Emergency and curfew, the ban on meetings and the promises of more commissions of inquiry.

Ramushwana's call to the ANC, PAC and Azapo to approach him for discussion was seen as proof that he did not intend to move for the immediate re-incorporation of Venda into South Africa.

Speech

Indeed, the colonel said as much himself in his speech when he declared that he would hold on to power until eventual re-integration into South Africa.

The demand for immediate re-incorporation had been the battle cry of activists in the area during the demonstrations that eventually led Ramushwana to step in.

Ramushwana has said the Ravele government had failed to govern. He accused the Cabinet of corruption, nepotism and large-scale irregularities and said various commissions of inquiry would be set up to investigate all complaints.

Ravele had delivered almost the same speech word for word when he took over, promising a clean administration.

Ramushwana said while none of the Cabinet ministers he was accusing of corruption had been arrested, anyone found to have been involved in such activity would be tried in open court.

He said his takeover was not a coup but a handover by the failed government to the military. This statement was cited by spokesmen for the United Democratic Front in the area as proof that the change in government was no change at all but an agreed arrangement to perpetuate the status quo.

A spokesman for Azapo said the coup was in fact a retrogressive step for liberation movements operating in the area. Whereas they could hold meetings with impunity during the last days of Ravele, this was now expressly forbidden and anyone daring to defy would face the full force of the army.

So while the initial reaction of the people seemed to follow the now familiar pattern in the quasi-independent bantustans where military takeovers enjoy popular support, the euphoria in this part of the world was very brief indeed.

The difference could be that the takeovers in Transkei and Ciskei brought about a situation in which the liberation movement could operate above ground in those areas.

In Venda, however, as the Azapo spokesman pointed out, the organisations in the area had already achieved that and the coup actually nullified all these gains.

But perhaps Ramushwana's own character and history had something to do with the secondary reaction.

A former security policeman who is believed to have infiltrated the ANC in Lusaka for several years, served with the Smith forces during the Zimbabwean war of independence and further saw duty in Caprivi and Angola, he is not necessarily everyone's darling.

He featured in several cases involving alleged guerillas who claimed in court to have been tortured either by him or in his presence.

Naturally, he denied the allegations.

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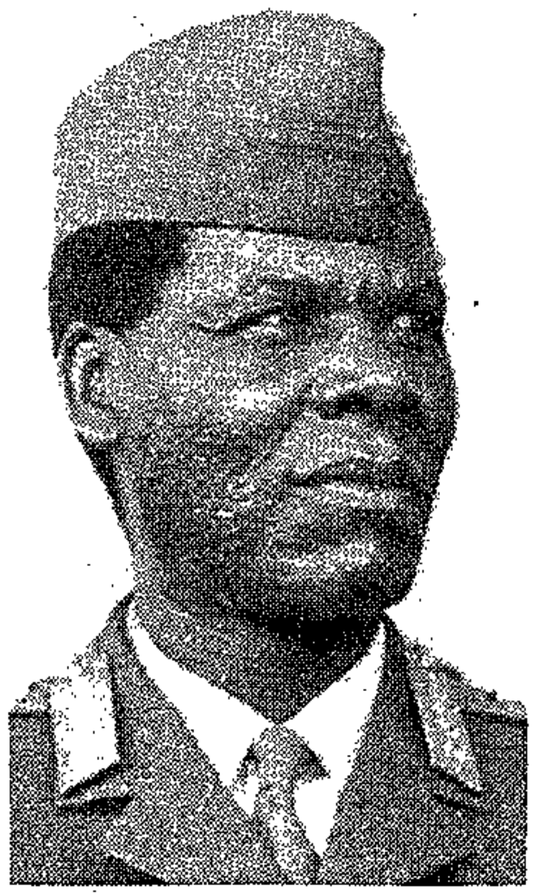

RAMUSHWANA

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The difference could be that the takeovers in Transkei and Ciskei brought about a situation in which the liberation movement could operate above ground in those areas.

In Venda, however, as the Azapo spokesman pointed out, the organisations in the area had already achieved that and the coup actually nullified all these gains.

But perhaps Ramushwana's own character and history had something to do with the secondary reaction.

A former security policeman who is believed to have infiltrated the ANC in Lusaka for several years, served with the Smith forces during the Zimbabwean war of independence and further saw duty in Caprivi and Angola, he is not necessarily everyone's darling.

He featured in several cases involving alleged guerillas who claimed in court to have been tortured either by him or in his presence.

Naturally, he denied the allegations.

113

Cape Times, Wednesday, April 11, 1990 3

Venda trade union restricted

PIETERSBURG. — The military government in Venda yesterday restricted the only independent trade union operating in the homeland, a spokesman for the Council of National Unity announced.

Colonel Brand du Toit, press liaison officer, said the Allied Workers' Union (AWU) was served with the notice yesterday morning. Its offices at Sibasa had also been closed, he said.

Colonel Du Toit confirmed that soldiers of the Venda Defence Force had disrupted a meeting of the AWU on Saturday because no permit had been sought.

The AWU was formed two weeks ago following several workshops organised by the Miluwanu Worker Education Project established by the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo).

AWU general secretary Mr Thivhilaeli Mutobvu could not be traced for comment yesterday.

Colonel Du Toit said all meetings were banned in the homeland. Anyone intending to hold a meeting should apply for a permit from the nearest police station.

The chairman of the council, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, said at a press conference last week after his takeover that he could not guarantee that trade unions would be allowed to operate. — Sapa

SOWETAN Thursday April 12 1990

Big changes planned by Venda leader

113

By MATHATA TSEDU

Venda's military ruler, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, announced sweeping changes this week, culminating in the suspension of two senior police and traffic officers and a ban on a trade union.

Ramashwana, who is chairman of the Council for National Unity, has said in several Press releases that a commission of inquiry into corruption and nepotism had been appointed.

It will also probe the abolishment of poll tax and sites bought by members of the deposed regime and made available for sale to the public.

He said his government would also subsidise electricity in the homeland.

But in toughnening of attitudes against worker organisations, Ramushwana banned the Allied Workers Union (AWU) and threatened civil servants about any work stoppages.

He said there was a huge backlog of work following the intermittent sit-ins prior to the take-over.

The ban on AWU has evoked strong reaction from the union, which said the action was irrefutable proof that the military take-over was intended to perpetuate the exploitation of black workers in the area.

AWU general secretry Mr Thivhilaeli Mutobvu said thousands of workers who had already joined the two-week-old union were now left in the lurch. "It is ironic that the take-over which was first hailed as a measure to alleviate the suffering of people now eventually ends up as anti-worker interest move.

" We condemn the closing down of our union and call on our members and other workers to defend their right to organise themselves", Mutobvu said.

The general secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions, Mr Cunningham Ngcukana, said his federation condemned the ban on AWU.

"We believe that the right of people to collective bargaining and trade union rights are basic human rights and even military juntas such as the one in Venda should be made to uphold", Ngcukana said.

1990 Nieman Fellow

FORMER *Sowetan* editor Mr Joe Latakgomo has been selected as the 1990 Nieman Fellow, Harvard University in the United States announced yesterday.

Latakgomo, a senior assistant editor of The Star, leaves with his wife Ellen in September for a year's study at Harvard.

He started journalism with The World newspaper under the late Mr Percy Qoboza and rose to be Editor of *Sowetan*, before joining The Star. - Sapa.

A coup? Venda's civil servants hadn't heard yet

W/Mail 12/4-19/4/90

(113)

There was only one journalist in town at the moment of last week's Venda coup. Foreign correspondent **LOUIS FREEDBERG** *was trying to arrange an interview with the old president ... and got an impromptu interview with the coup leader instead*

Post-coup Venda: Crowds pour out into the streets and a hasty curfew is quickly abandoned

Pictures: SEBASTIAN BALIE, Afrapix

IT was not exactly the same as scaling the Berlin Wall, but the sight of dozens of people covering the 3m-high statue of former Venda President Patrick Mpephu that dominates the square in front of the parliamentary buildings in the capital, Thohoyandou, carried a similar powerful symbolism.

Minutes before, word had spread like wildfire that the Venda Defence Force had ousted unpopular President Frank Ravele and his entire cabinet. Thousands of people, hooting and shouting "Down with ritual murder!" along with cries of "Viva Nelson Mandela!", had streamed to the square, which until then had been off-limits to ordinary citizens. Usually it is a silent, deserted plaza.

Soldiers kept a large circular area open in the middle of the cheering, mostly enthusiastic crowd. At about 3.15pm, immediately after he gave his speech announcing the military takeover on Radio Thohoyandou, General Gabriel Ramushwana descended in a helicopter into the square, the rotor blades sending clouds of dust in the air, and drowning out boisterous singing.

When he stepped out from the helicopter he was mobbed by the crowd, who gave him enthusiastic embraces.

Most people had not heard the radio announcement and knew nothing about the State of Emergency and other restrictive measures he had just imposed. Smiling broadly, Ramushwana fought his way through the crowd on to the back of a military truck, where he gave a short impromptu speech with a megaphone.

Soldiers hoisted me on to the back of the truck as Ramushwana finished his speech. As the truck inched forward, the new homeland leader, dressed in khaki military fatigues, gave me his first interview.

New leader Gabriel Ramushwana delivers his non-commital speech

Ramushwana was evasive on whether the takeover had been carried out with Pretoria's co-operation. On the key question of re-incorporation into South Africa, Ramushwana was non-committal. "I am neither opposed to it or in favour of it."

Earlier in the day, not knowing that a coup was in progress, I had tried to reach Ravele for an interview, but all phone lines to his office were out of order. I called the South African Embassy, and a representative there said that the embassy could not comment on events in another country, and referred me to Ravele. Then, abruptly, she hung up. Immediately thereafter, all phone lines in Thohoyandou were disconnected.

I went to Ravele's office to try to contact him personally. On the way, I noticed two helicopters flying overhead, which was the only visible sign of unusual military activity before the coup.

The imposing presidential buildings were deserted, except for a few receptionists and two Venda policemen at the front door. The civil servants seemed to have no inkling of what was happening, as they told me to come back at 2pm to try to see Ravele. By then the coup had already taken place.

Earlier in the day, I had witnessed a graphic example of how far things had deteriorated.

At the 450-bed Donald Fraser Hospital in Thohoyandou, nurses and all other workers were in the third day of a strike that had effectively shut down the facility. They sat in chairs outside in their white uniforms and red berets while patients inside lay pathetically without food or clean bedding and a handful of exhausted doctors tried to provide care. Other patients, some disoriented, wandered through the yard in their blue or red hospital robes.

The entire area seemed peaceful, and none of the looting in similar homeland coups was evident. Children sang freedom songs on street corners. Soldiers, much feared by many Venda residents until earlier in the day, waved at passers-by. One white soldier in the Venda Defence Force even carried an ANC flag. "Someone just gave it to me," he explained in an Afrikaans accent. — San Francisco Chronicle

African National Congress and United Democratic Front activists and church representatives were trying desperately to get the nurses to go back to work. The workers were claiming to have stopped working in the name of Nelson Mandela.

"We want to disassociate ourselves from this action completely," said a key organiser, who said that the poorest people in Venda would be most hurt by the work stoppage and that other ways to resolve the workers' demand for higher wages had to be found. A meeting was convened to hammer out a compromise, and by lunchtime, as the news of the coup arrived, the nurses were back at work.

In the late afternoon, several hours after the coup, telephone operators who had been on strike intermittently for weeks were still not back at work and I had no choice but to drive back to Louis Trichardt 60km away to file.

Venda inquiry appointed

113

Cape Times 12/4/90

THOHOYANDOU. — A commission of inquiry into alleged corruption and nepotism has been appointed by Venda's new leader, Colonel G Ramushwana, a statement from the Venda governement said yesterday.

Tax on all male citizens in the homeland has been cancelled and electricity will be subsidised by the government, the statement also said.

Also announced was the suspension of Lieutenant P Demana of the Venda police and chief of the traffic department Mr R K Ravele. — Sapa

F/M 20/4/90 (113)

GABRIEL RAMUSHWANA (113)

F/M 20/4/90

Puppet or player?

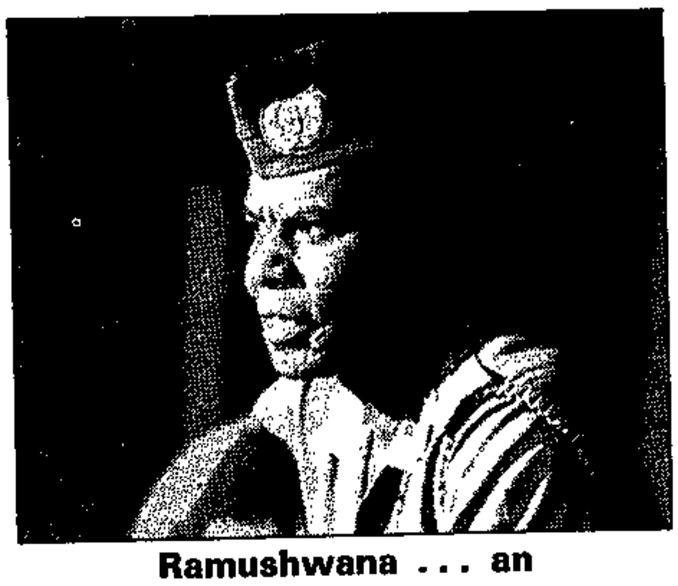
The emergence of Col Mutheiwana Gabriel Ramushwana (48) as Venda's new strongman was apparently as much of a surprise to him as it was to the people of the far-northern Transvaal homeland.

Ramushwana, second-in-command of the Venda Defence Force, was recalled from an SA Army College course in Pretoria on the morning of the day the military took over the government from deposed President Frank Ravele.

The curious handover of power to Ramushwana as chairman (and initially sole member) of the Council for National Unity, as the new military regime is called, was evidently not initiated by him.

But top officials and, indeed, Ravele himself, appear to have known at least 24 hours beforehand that a putsch was afoot.

Ramushwana refuses to be drawn on whether he was *put* into power but, implicit in the tangled undergrowth of Venda politics, is a cabal of powerbrokers, alleged to run government, who are behind him (*Current Affairs* March 23). It is also possible Pretoria backed the bloodless takeover in an attempt to defuse the increasingly uncontrollable situation.



Ramushwana ... an unknown quantity

Though the colonel claims the takeover was greeted with jubilation, the popular enthusiasm appears to have had more to do with the demise of Ravele's regime which was widely perceived as corrupt. Ramushwana's attempts to deliver a speech were drowned by a crowd repeatedly calling for the lifting of the State of Emergency and curfew Ramushwana imposed swiftly on taking office.

A prominent local ANC leader observes: "Ramushwana says he wants to meet us but he bans meetings where we could obtain such a mandate. He has taken us back into pre-reform days."

Ramushwana was a security policeman from 1967-1977 when he is alleged to have infiltrated, or attempted to infiltrate, ANC bases in what was then Rhodesia. He was transferred to the Venda National Force in 1978 and promoted to colonel in 1985 in the Venda Defence Force.

The colonel is certainly a capable individual. He is astute and has a sharp intellect and wit. He is also an accomplished linguist, speaking 19 African languages. ■

Lebowa Minister sued for child maintenance

Sowetan 23/4/90

(111)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

HELL, they say, hath no fury than a woman scorned.

This must have occurred to Lebowa's Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Lawrence Mokhudu Ledwaba, when his girlfriend of old took him to court last week for child maintenance.

School principal Mrs Mohlekesedi Mathiba of Leshikishike Secondary School near Gachuene told the Lebowakgomo Magistrate Court that the former radio announcer turned politician had fathered her 18-month-old baby girl but was now refusing to support the child.

She asked that the court order Ledwaba to pay R150 a month towards maintenance costs.

Ledwaba did not appear in court but sent a consent note agreeing to pay R100 a month. His offer was accepted and made an order of court.

Announcer

Mathiba said later that it had not been her original intention to take the matter to court. However, when Ledwaba scorned her efforts to reach an amicable settlement, she was left with no option but to go to court.

Ledwaba, a well-known former Radio Lebowa announcer, ditched the microphone and airwaves early last year to campaign in the Lebowa general elections. He won and was immediately appointed Minister of Justice. He was transferred to Home Affairs early this year.

Ledwaba could not be traced for comment at the weekend.

Venda rulers

Sowetan 24/4/90

VENDA'S military leader, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, has named his Cabinet: Chief Peter Kutama, Headman Gilbert Ligege, Thivhulawi Makumbane, Major-General Gerson Ramabulana, Major MG Ramaremisa, Mr Josias Mandiwana, Mr Samson Makhucha, Major Samuel Landela and Mr Jonathan Ligege. (113)

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Lebowa cops arrest 200 youths in raids

Sowetan 25/4/90 (111)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

MORE than 200 youths, some nine years old, were arrested by Lebowa police in Bushbuckridge in what police described as an intensive crime prevention drive.

The arrests came amid renewed tensions in the area where two people are said to have been axed to death over the past few days.

Residents said police were detaining youths in house-to-house raids.

Young boys aged between nine and 13 were among the many being held at the Bushbuckridge police station, they said.

Residents allege that a hit squad comprising police and vigilantes was attacking activists' houses.

Already, one house has been attacked by unknown gunmen using rifles believed to be similar to those used by police and army units.

Several activists in the area, who were attacked by vigilantes, were arrested and locked up for two days when they went to report the attack.

The attackers have not yet been arrested.

Residents said the arrests on Monday came as pupils went back to school.

Many pupils had to escape through windows as police surrounded schools and arrested them.

Many youths are hiding in nearby mountains, they said.

Lebowa commissioner of police Brigadier JJ de Swardt said yesterday that police had launched an intensive crime prevention campaign to look for people involved in burning houses.

● To page 2

Lebowa arrests (111)

● From page 1

De Swardt said he did not believe that nine-year-old children had also been arrested.

He did not know many people had been arrested but believed that some of then would be charged in court.

He said two people had been hacked to death but could not say whether the deaths were unrest related.

Sowetan 25/4/90

Rally

The Bushbuckridge and Acornhoek Youth Congress has called a public peace rally at the Mapulaneng Technical College on Saturday.

Bayco is also to meet Chief L Mokwena at noon today to discuss the attacks on activists.

Mokwena confirmed the meeting, saying he would respond to the allegations only after he had met Bayco.

A Bayco spokesman said the organisation would also meet school principals today to discuss the disruption of schools by police.

Campaign

The organisation has called on Lebowa chief minister and minister of police Mr Nelson Ramodike, to withdraw the riot unit from the area.

The spokesman said the Mankweng riot unit had started a campaign of terror in the area.

He said Ramodike could not hope to be accepted into the democratic movement "when his police are beating up people and talking sides in disputes".

Ramodike was not available for comment.

Azasm 5 beaten -claim

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Five members of the Azanian Students Movement appeared battered, bruised and soiled at the Thohoyandou Magistrate's Court on Friday. They were allegedly assaulted by members of the bantustan's defence force.

Mr Azwindini Peter Mulibana, Mr Mushathoni Mutobvu, Mr Boikie Tsedu and two other youths told Mr R R Dama that they were beaten and dragged on the ground by soldiers. Tsedu identified one of his assailants as Ado Muila.

No charge was put to them and the case was remanded to June 14. Bail was fixed at R50 each. The packed courtroom reverberated to the singing of freedom songs as the large crowd filed out of court and other cases on roll came to a standstill as youths sang and danced outside while waiting for the trialists to emerge from the court cells.

Soldiers clashed with the singing youths near the shopping centre and later confiscated this reporter's camera. The camera was returned undamaged. The arrests of the five youths followed an abortive march by members of the Allied Workers Union (AWU) on Wednesday to protest the banning of the union by the military regime two weeks ago.

SWOLLEN faces, soiled and torn T-shirts are the grim testimony of the alleged assault on Azasm members by the Venda Defence Force. Police had earlier denied that they were assaulted.

Sowetan 30/4/90 (113)

Police warn of fake R50 notes

Star 1/5/90

113

Own Correspondent

THOHOYANDOU — The Venda police announced yesterday that hundreds of counterfeit R50 notes were in circulation in the homeland.

CID chief Colonel D N Makwarela said arrests were expected soon.

The police said that the notes were discovered on Tuesday last week when a farmer wanted to deposit R400 at the Thohoyandou Standard Bank. He had earlier sold his produce to local pensioners who received the money as old age pension.

The Director-General of the Venda Department of Pensions and Welfare, Mr Samson Makhuvha said the money was withdrawn from the First National Bank at Thohoyandou for pensioners.

The Venda police said that so far their investigations were based in Johannesburg.

New Venda leader to act on trade unions

113

By Dirk Nel,
Northern Transvaal Bureau

THOHOYANDOU — The Chairman of Venda's Council of National Unity, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, says he will soon be making an announcement about the future of trade unions in the territory.

Speaking after discussions with leaders of the Allied Workers' Union, he indicated that the council would study the situation in detail before making a decision on the matter.

Trade unions have never been allowed to operate in Venda, since its declaration of independence in 1979.

Last week organisers of a planned mass protest were arrested in Venda by security forces, after leaflets carrying the name of the Allied Workers Union, urging workers to stay away from work, had been widely distributed.

Intimidation

Talks were held between Colonel Ramushwana and the detained leaders, and an announcement was made over Radio Thohoyandou in which the protest organisers retracted their earlier instructions to workers.

In a statement issued yesterday Colonel Ramushwana said he was determined to eliminate intimidation and violence, and hinted at strong measures by security forces.

"As far as possible, all citizens of Venda will have the assistance of the security forces, and intimidators will be sternly dealt with," he said.

Referring to consumer boycotts he said all Venda citizens should have the freedom to choose where they wished to purchase their goods.

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Corruption probe

Sowetan 2/5/90

RESPONSE to a commission into corruption and nepotism in Venda has been overwhelming, according to the chairman of the ruling Council for National Unity, Col Gabriel Ramushwana.

He said the Council is considering appointing sub-committees to ease the load on the commission.

113

It is already handling 115 cases involving 15 departments and has referred 18 cases of alleged murder and manslaughter to the police.

Prisoners in protest march

Sowetan 2/5/90

(113)

MORE than 150 prisoners from Matatshe central prison in Venda marched from the prison to Venda Defence Force headquarters at Sibasa on May Day to protest against treatment by prison warders.

After the march the prisoners returned to the maximum-security jail to stage a "stay-in."

According to officials, about 100 prisoners wearing prison garb forced the warders to open the well-guarded prison gates, about 5km from DHQ at about 9.30am.

After overpowering the warders they hijacked a car and about 10 people crammed into it.

The rest decided to walk.

The hijacked vehicle had a puncture and it was abandoned and those in the car then walked the rest of the way.

Prison warders then decided to help with transport to DHQ.

The prisoners demanded the commutation of their sentences.

At DHQ the prisoners saw the Chairman of Venda's ruling Council of Unity, Col Gabriel Ramushwana, who promised their grievances would be addressed by this morning.

He also advised them to address a petition to him to be delivered by 8am today.

After their meeting the prisoners asked to be transported back to the prison where they would stage the stay-in.

A spokesman for the Department of Justice said the prisoners' grievances were brought to his department's attention last Friday by a magistrate who usually visited the prisoners.

The grievances were unfortunately ignored as "one of those things" until the march and stay-in were staged yesterday, the spokesman said.- Sapa.

100 Venda prisoners in protest march

Star 2/5/90. (113)

Own Correspondent

THOHOYANDOU — More than 100 prisoners at Venda Central Prison overpowered prison guards yesterday and marched 9 km from the jail to Sibasa in protest against conditions.

Some of the prisoners hijacked a prison vehicle and drove to Sibasa.

The 123 prisoners left the jail at 10 am yesterday during visiting hours. Four later escaped.

Prisoners had reportedly been on a hunger strike for two days.

Venda Defence Force (VDF) members shot and punctured the back tyres of the prison vehicle. The prisoners were then taken by the security forces to the VDF headquarters at Sibasa.

According to a prison warder, it was a peaceful protest.

Prisoners demanded good food, better living conditions and to be treated as humans.

At the VDF headquarters they met Colonel Gabrial Ramushwana, chairman of the Council of National Unity, who promised he would appoint a commission of inquiry to look into their grievances.

Star 3/5/90 (113)

Leader of Venda picks his 'Cabinet'

Own Correspondent

THOHOYANDOU — The chairman of Venda's Council of National Unity, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, swore in members of the council yesterday.

He said the nominated members of the council had portfolios equivalent to those of Ministers.

Colonel Ramushwana will control defence, national intelligence and the department of the auditor-general.

Headman G M Ligege, Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Information and Broadcasting, was not sworn in because he is in Ciskei on official duties.

The councillors are:

Major Samuel Landela (education and culture); Mr S M Makhuvha (community development, social welfare and pensions); Chief F P Kutama (urban affairs, land tenure, local government statistics and chieftaincy); Mr J M Maidiwana (environment, water affairs, agriculture and forestry,); Mr K B Magwaba (public works and transport); Major-General G T Ramabulana (police); Major M G Ramaremisa (internal affairs and manpower utilisation); and Mr J S M Ligege (commission for administration, posts and telecommunications).

Star-Times 4/5/90 (113)

7 hurt as gunman runs amok

THOHOYANDOU. — Seven people were injured when a member of the Venda Defence Force allegedly ran amok at Tshilamba, Mutale, and fired wildly into a group just before midnight on Wednesday.

Police took the man into custody. They said he was drunk.

None of the victims were seriously injured.

Meanwhile, government and parastatal officers were warned on Wednesday that they would lose their pension benefits if they resigned before the current commission of inquiry into corruption and nepotism made its report.

The warning was given by the chairman of Venda's Council of National Unity, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana.

Venda soldier runs amok, hurts 7

SEVEN people were injured when a member of the Venda Defence Force ran amok at Tshilamba, Mutale, and fired wildly into a group just before midnight on Wednesday. C/Press 6/5/90

Police arrested the man who, they said, was drunk and illegally in possession of the firearm. None of the victims was seriously injured. (113)

Move to probe jailings

Sowetan 10/5/90

113

THE Mass Democratic Movement and the Venda Council for National Unity will set up a joint committee to define political prisoners held in the territory.

This was announced in a statement issued after a meeting between the MDM and the Council in Thohoyandou this week.

The statement said the committee would also look at ways of ensuring the speedy lifting of the state of emergency — imposed in Venda when Col Gabriel Ramushwana took over the government in a coup last month.

Tuesday's meeting followed a similar one held between the council and the ANC in Lusaka on Sunday, at which both parties agreed to further meetings.

Structures

When Ramushwana took over last month, youths supporting ANC ground structures in the area rejected him, alleging he was a "Pretoria man" brought in to save the crumbling Ravele regime.

An ANC supporter who was appointed to the new Cabinet, Headman Thivhulkawi Makumbane, had to resign after members of the Tshgisaulu Youth Congress told him the council was "an oppressive machinery of the white state".

The two meetings have raised doubts about consultation between the top ANC and MDM leadership and the grassroot structures. Many youths still reject Ramushwana and point to the state of emergency and the ban on trade unions as examples of oppression. Sapa

MDM, Venda in joint committee

Star Times 10/5/90

(113)

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The statement said the committee would also look at ways of ensuring the speedy lifting of the state of emergency — imposed in Venda when Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana took over the government in a coup last month.

Tuesday's meeting followed a similar one held between the council and the ANC in Lusaka at the weekend, at which both parties agreed to further meetings.

When Colonel Ramushwana took over last month, youths supporting ANC ground structures in the area rejected him, alleging he was a "Pretoria man" brought in to save the crumbling Ravele regime.

An ANC supporter who was appointed to the new cabinet, Mr Headman Thivhulkawi Makumbane, had to resign after members of the Tshgisaulu Youth Congress told him the council was "an oppressive machinery of the white state". — Sapa

Azapo slams Venda pact

Sowetan 11/5/90

113

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE agreement this week between the MDM and Venda's Council for National Unity that a committee was to be set up to define political prisoners in Venda was a tacit recognition of the "independence" of the bantustans, Azapo said yesterday.

Reacting to the meeting held on Tuesday at Thohoyandou, Azapo regional publicity director for the northern Transvaal, Mr Khangale Makhado, said the committee agreed upon between FW de Klerk and the ANC in Cape Town last week should cover prisoners in Venda, "unless the MDM has decided to recognise Venda as a sovereign state".

He said the MDM meeting and another between the council and the ANC in Lusaka demonstrated not only "the present state of political confusion" within the two organisations and their grassroots supporters, but also "bore the seeds of the betrayal of the revolution and wishes of the majority of the people in Venda.

Citing the recent forced resignation from the council of headman Thivhulawi Makumbane, an ANC supporter, by members of the ANC supporting Youth Congress, Azapo said the meetings did not have the blessing of revolutionaries in the area.

"How do they justify such connivance when the military junta has banned trade unions and beat up youths protesting against such action," the statement added.

Another agreement reached between the MDM and the CNU was that ways had to be found by the joint working committee for the speedy lifting of the state of emergency.

posts in his Department and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

Hansard 22/5/90 B882E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(1)

Year	Enrolment
1985	5 310
1986	6 518
1987	7 826
1988	8 870
1989	9 487

(2) (a) The department is not in possession of this information and is also not in a position to obtain it.

(b) Falls away.

Pupil/teacher ratio in PWV area

359. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education:†

What was the pupil/teacher ratio in (a) all schools under the control of his Department and (b) the PWV area as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

Hansard 22/5/90 (321) B883E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(a) all schools: pupil/teacher ratio 38,3/1

(b) the PWV area: pupil/teacher ratio 36,8/1

The statistics were compiled on Tuesday, 6 March 1990.

Venda: guarantees/sureties

402. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs: Hansard 22/5/90

(1) Whether any guarantees or sureties were given directly or indirectly by the Government or any Department or agency of the Government to any person or organisation for (a) loans granted, (b) lines of credit granted and (c) other specified financial services rendered to (i) the Government of, (ii) any Government Department of, (iii) a development corporation in and (iv) any other specified person or organisation in Venda in the 1989-90 financial year; if so, (113)

(2) (a) what amounts were involved in each case and (b) what was the total amount outstanding in terms of such guarantees or sureties as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

(3) whether foreign currencies are involved in any of these guarantees or sureties; if so, (a) what currencies, (b) how much is involved and (c) who is responsible for bearing the potential cost of exchange rate fluctuations?

Hansard 22/5/90 B949E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) No. (113)

(b) Yes, a guarantee in respect of overdraft facilities to the Government of Venda.

(c) No.

(2) (a) R117,5 million in respect of 1 (b).

(b) Amount utilised not yet known in respect of 1 (b).

(3) No.

(a), (b) and (c) fall away.

Bophuthatswana: guarantees/sureties

403. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs: Hansard 22/5/90

(1) Whether any guarantees or sureties were given directly or indirectly by the Government or any Department or agency of the Government to any person or organisation for (a) loans granted, (b) lines of credit granted and (c) other specified financial services rendered to (i) the Government of, (ii) any Government Department of, (iii) a development corporation in and (iv) any other specified person or organisation in Bophuthatswana in the 1989-90 financial year; if so,

(2) (a) what amounts were involved in each case and (b) what was the total amount outstanding in terms of such guarantees or sureties as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

(3) whether foreign currencies are involved in any of these guarantees or sureties; if so, (a) what currencies, (b) how much is involved and (c) who is responsible for bearing the potential cost of exchange rate fluctuations?

B950E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) No. Hansard 22/5/90 (109)

(2) and (3) fall away.

SADF: applications from non-Whites

413. Lt-Gen R H D ROGERS asked the Minister of Defence:

How many Black, White, Coloured and Indian persons, respectively, (a) applied to join, and (b) were accepted into the Permanent Force as members of the South African (i) Army, (ii) Air Force, (iii) Navy and (iv) Medical Services in 1989?

Hansard 22/5/90 B960E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(a) Separate statistics for race groups are not held in respect of applications to join the SA Defence Force.

(b)

(i)	White	1 214
	Coloured	79
	Indian	0
	Black	1 408
(ii)	White	1 452
	Coloured	79
	Indian	17
	Black	0
(iii)	White	324
	Coloured	40
	Indian	49
	Black	1
(iv)	White	623
	Coloured	13
	Indian	0
	Black	15

OECD: hazardous wastes

417. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether there is an international Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) agreement regarding the import, export and/or handling of hazardous wastes; if so, (a) what is the name of this agreement, (b) when was it agreed to and (c) who are its signatories; Hansard 22/5/90

(2) whether South Africa is a signatory to this agreement; if not, why not; if so, when did we sign this agreement;

(3) whether South Africa is complying with the said agreements; if not, (a) why not and (b) in what specified ways are we not complying with it; Hansard 22/5/90

(4) whether his Department has any information on whether South Africa imports any hazardous wastes from any of the signatories to this agreement; if so, from which signatories?

B964E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) No Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) treaty as such exists. The OECD has, however, in three Council decisions of 1 February 1984, 5 June 1986 and 27 May 1988, made recommendations on the internal handling and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes from OECD member states.

(a), (b) and (c) fall away.

(2) South Africa is not a member of the OECD and recommendations of the OECD are only applicable to member states.

(3) In connection with South Africa's compliance with international norms I wish to refer to my reply to the hon member's question no 5 of 24 April 1990 in connection with the Basle Convention which is the most comprehensive international Convention of its kind.

(4) The importation of hazardous wastes is a matter for the Department of Environment Affairs.

SAAF: resignations

420. Lt-Gen R H D ROGERS asked the Minister of Defence: Hansard 22/5/90

(1) How many (a) pilots and (b) technical personnel resigned from the South African Air Force in 1989;

(2) whether any steps are being taken to prevent further resignations; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

B996E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) (a) 97

(b) 544

113

Row at school

Outrage over soldiers on campus

By MATHATHA TSEDU

TENSION has gripped Tivumbeni College of Education in Nkowankowa township, near Tzaneen, where soldiers occupy the campus during lectures.

The action follows the frog-marching by students of the rector, Mr LC Hager, from the campus on May 16.

Hager, is alleged to have banned the students' representative council on that day.

As a result of this action, 12 members of the SRC have been charged with kidnapping, intimidation and malicious damage to property. They appeared in the Ritavi Magistrate's Court and were released on R100 bail each.

They are due to appear again on may 30.

SRC members have called on Gazankulu Chief Minister Hudson Ntsanwisi to remove the soldiers who now escort all white lecturers into campus and stay until lessons are over.

An SRC spokesman said students were angered by the "occupation" of their campus.

"If Ntsanwisi is serious about his relationship with the ANC, then he should do as the organisation is saying by removing soldiers from our campus," he said.

Meanwhile, students at the University of Venda at Thohoyandou have been boycotting classes since Tuesday in protest against a notice of eviction given to day students who were hiring rooms in the township.

ANC 'backs' Venda boss

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Sowetan 1/6/90

VENDA'S military ruler, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, this week said he had been instructed by the ANC "to deal sternly" with youths who challenged his rule and boycotted classes.

Speaking at a special television broadcast screened in the homeland on Wednesday night, Ramushwana said "top leaders" of the ANC told him during the military conference in Lusaka last week that they were perturbed by boycotts engineered by youths in Venda.

"They advised me to take stern action against them," he said.

(113)

Banned

Sowetan 1/6/90

Ramushwana's disclosure follows the indefinite closure of four teacher training colleges by the homeland's Minister of Education, Mr VS Landela.

Landela also banned the All Colleges Forum (ACF) and student representative councils at the four colleges. The University of Venda, also affected by boycotts over accommodation, has not been closed down, although the campus was deserted yesterday.

The affected colleges are Makhado, Tshisimani, Ramaano-Mbulaheni and Venda College.

Students there have

To Page 2

Venda school crisis mounts

From Page 1

been boycotting classes for two weeks to demand an end to instruction in Afrikaans, the expulsion of allegedly racist white lecturers, the provision of facilities for the SRC, and that those who fail the same class twice should be readmitted.

Sowetan 1/6/90

ANC spokesman in Lusaka Mr Tom Sebina yesterday said the Venda situation was not discussed in the military conference itself but could have been hinted at during private talks with ANC leaders.

However, he said the leaders would have called on Ramushwana to encourage pupils to go to school in the same context that other ANC leaders, internally and externally, had done. "It was not an instruction," he said.

Ramushwana said his government would not allow "children" to dictate to it. "If they do not go to schools and send teachers to other centres," he added.

(113)

The Director General for Education, Mr WR Khuba, said his department had acceded to some of the demands. But, he said, they had turned down an appeal to allow pregnant students to continue to attend lessons.

Meanwhile, schooling in the Mutshundudi circuit came to a halt yesterday.

Azapo condemns closure of Venda colleges

113

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) at the weekend condemned the closing of four teachers training colleges in Venda and called for their immediate reopening.

In a statement released by the organisation's Northern Transvaal regional publicity secretary, Mr Khangale Makhado, Azapo said it noted with regret that Venda's military ruler, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, had said the go-ahead to deal sternly with protestors was given to him by the ANC.

Encourage

The ANC has denied issuing such instructions to Ramushwana but its spokesman in Lusaka, Mr Tom Sebina, said the organisation could only have asked the colonel to encourage students to attend classes.

Azapo said the people of Venda were duty bound to support the students who were protesting against the inclusion of Afrikaans in their syllabus, the expulsion of second-year failures and pregnant students.

They were also calling for the expulsion of alleged racist white rectors.

"Azapo, since its inception, has always rejected government created platforms, irrespective of who the so-called ruler of the time is. We, therefore, condemn the stifling of the student voices by the banning of SRC's in the area", the statement said.

The announcement by Ramushwana that he had been given instructions by top leaders of the ANC during a visit to Lusaka to deal "sternly" with youths who launched class boycotts and challenged orders to return to classes, has become a major talking point in the homeland, where Ramushwana's rule has been effectively rejected by youths.

The closure of the colleges followed an ultimatum by education minister, Major SV Landela, for students to return to classes or face a lost academic year. The ultimatum was ignored by the students, who are from Makhado, Tshisimani, Ramaano-Mbulaheni and Venda colleges. The closure of the colleges is indefinite.

4/6/90 Sowetan

Income tax written off

465. Mr H H SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether any income tax was written off in the 1988-89 financial year as irrecoverable; if so, (a) in respect of how many (i) individuals and (ii) companies and (b) what was the amount of tax written off in each category?
Hansard 5/6/90 B1086E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) (i) 7 288

(ii) 497

(b) Amount written off in respect of individuals: R18 604 915,88
Amount written off in respect of companies: R8 637 277,23.

Venda: amount paid by SA

469. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Afairs: Hansard (113)

(1) (a) What total amount was paid by South Africa to Venda in the 1989-90 financial year in terms of agreements between the two countries and (b) how was this amount made up; 5/6/90

(2) whether any additional amounts have been paid to Venda in the form of (a) loans or (b) grants; if so, (i) how many, and (ii) what was the amount of the loan or grant, in each case;

(3) whether any further (a) loans or (b) grants are envisaged in the 1990-91 financial year; if so, what loans or grants?
B1090E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) An estimated amount of R488 590 450

(b) The amount mentioned in (a) is made up as follows:

A. *Direct to assistance*

(i) Budgetary assistance: R348 202 230

(ii) Technical assistance: R1 015 000

(iii) Loan Fund: R26 439 930

(iv) Incentive scheme for industries: R6 362 648

B. *Transfers in terms of bilateral agreements* Hansard 5/6/90

(i) Tax compensation: R12 621 392 (113)

(ii) Share in Customs Union Revenue Pool: R90 390 000

(iii) Common Monetary Area: R3 559 250

(2) (a) No. Loans in terms of project aid agreements are included in the amount mentioned under 1 (a).

(i) and (ii) fall away.

(b) Yes.

(i) One.

(ii) Transfers in respect of the action programme: Creation of job opportunities are estimated at R2 095 036.

(3) (a) Yes. Loans are granted on a continuous basis within the framework of the Economic Co-operation Promotion Loan Fund.

(b) Yes. The same type of grant which was made during the 1989/90 financial year.

Bophuthatswana: amount paid by SA

470. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs: Hansard 5/6/90

(1) (a) What total amount was paid by South Africa to Bophuthatswana in the 1989-90 financial year in terms of agreements between the two countries and (b) how was this amount made up;

(2) whether any additional amounts have been paid to Bophuthatswana in the form of (a) loans or (b) grants; if so, (i) how many, and (ii) what was the amount of the loan or grant, in each case;

(3) whether any further (a) loans or (b) grants are envisaged in the 1990-91 financial year; if so, what loans or grants?
B1091E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) An estimated amount of R1 293 824 835

Hansard 5/6/90

(b) The amount mentioned in (a) is made up as follows:

A. *Direct to assistance*

(i) Budgetary assistance: R539 641 740

(ii) Technical assistance: R875 000

(iii) Loan Fund: R24 728 473

(iv) Incentive scheme for industries: R20 992 666

B. *Transfers in terms of bilateral agreements*

(i) Tax compensation: R72 647 339

(ii) Share in Customs Union Revenue Pool: R623 354 000

(iii) Common Monetary Area: R11 585 617

(2) (a) No. Loans in terms of project aid agreements are included in the amount mentioned under 1 (a).

(i) and (ii) fall away.

(b) Yes.

(i) One.

(ii) Transfers in respect of the action programme: Creation of job opportunities are estimated at R9 860 805.

(3) (a) Yes. Loans are granted on a continuous basis within the framework of the Economic Co-operation Promotion Loan Fund.

(b) Yes. The same type of grant which was made during the 1989/90 financial year.

Transkei: amount paid by SA

471. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs: Hansard 5/6/90

(1) (a) What total amount was paid by South Africa to Transkei in the 1989-90 financial year in terms of agreements between the two countries and (b) how was this amount made up;

(2) whether any additional amounts have been paid to Transkei in the form of (a) loans or (b) grants; if so, (i) how many, and (ii) what was the amount of the loan or grant, in each case;

(3) whether any further (a) loans or (b) grants are envisaged in the 1990-91 financial year; if so, what loans or grants?
Hansard 5/6/90 B1092E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) An estimated amount of R1 671 292 640

(b) The amount mentioned in (a) is made up as follows:

A. *Direct to assistance*

(i) Budgetary assistance: R875 320 000

(ii) Technical assistance: R608 000

(iii) Loan Fund: R4 617 675

(iv) Incentive scheme for industries: R25 327 100

B. *Transfers in terms of bilateral agreements*

(i) Tax compensation: R192 301 965

(ii) Share in Customs Union Revenue Pool: R548 915 000

(iii) Common Monetary Area: R24 202 900

(2) (a) No. Loans in terms of project aid agreements are included in the amount mentioned under 1 (a).

(i) and (ii) fall away.

(b) Yes.

(i) One.

(ii) Transfers in respect of the action programme: Creation of job opportunities are estimated at R6 517 000.

(3) (a) Yes. Loans are granted on a continuous basis within the framework of the Economic Co-operation Promotion Loan Fund.

(b) Yes. The same type of grant which was made during the 1989/90 financial year.

(DP Sea Point). CAPE TIMES 6/6/90 113

Venda lifts emergency

THOHOYANDOU. — The state of emergency in Venda has been lifted and all political prisoners are to be freed. Announcing this, the chairman of the Council of National Unity, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, said law and order, discipline and stability had returned to Venda since the council seized power two months ago.

News In Brief

SA pays R1,6bn to T'kei

Cape Times 6/6/90

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — South Africa had paid over an estimated R1,6bn to the Transkei in the 1989/90 financial year in terms of agreements between the two states, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said yesterdayin a written reply to a question from Mr Colin Eglin (DP Sea Point).

Cape Times 6/6/90

Venda lifts emergency

THOHOYANDOU. — The state of emergency in Venda has been lifted and all political prisoners are to be freed. Announcing this, the chairman of the Council of National Unity, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, said law and order, discipline and stability had returned to Venda since the council seized power two months ago.

Joan Collins in R15m suit

LONDON. — Joan Collins is suing ION Pictures for more than R15 million after bosses branded her "jealous and greedy". Joan, 57, has filed a complaint for defamation of character. The lawsuit follows a slanging match about the collapse of a TV film based on her novel, "Prime Time".

Namibia needs R1bn

Cape Times 6/6/90

GENEVA. — Namibia is seeking about R1 billion from industrialised countries to help it cope with development and debt problems, Prime Minister Mr Hage Geingob said yesterday.

Doctor in court

A DURBAN doctor made a brief appearance in the Maritzburg Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the murder of his gynaecologist wife last month.

Cape Times 6/6/90

Swapo agrees to probe

WINDHOEK. — Namibia agreed yesterday to establish a committee with the Red Cross to probe charges that Swapo is still holding scores of dissidents.

Cape Times 6/6/90

Chief detained

MASERU. — The principal chief of Thaba Bosiu in Lesotho, Chief Khoabane Theko, has been detained for questioning in connection with a document, critical to the government.

Stud farm for sale

THE R25-million Highdown Stud at Nottingham Road in the Natal Midlands, one of the biggest thoroughbred breeding establishments in South Africa, is for sale.

Mayor's trial starts

WASHINGTON. — A prosecutor yesterday denied Washington mayor Mr Marion Barry's claim that the government had leaked crucial videotape evidence to a TV station and said Mr Barry's statement may have been a ploy to influence jurors in his drug trial.

Reports by Staff Reporter, Own Correspondent, Sapa-Reuter-AP and UPI

ty removing a knife from Mxenge's leagues from the intelligence course. continues this morning.

Venda emergency lifted

(113)

THOHOYANDOU — The state of emergency in Venda had been lifted with immediate effect, Council of National Unity chairman Col Gabriel Ramushwana announced yesterday. B/Day 6/6/90

He said political prisoners would be freed unconditionally as soon as formalities were completed. Existing security laws would be upheld by his government.

Mass rallies by "bona fide political organisations" would be allowed only if organisers were granted permits. Strikes by government employees, the burning of alleged witches and destruction of property under any pretext would not be permitted. — Sapa.

Policemen shot their way out of evidence

B/Day 6/6/90

AMBULANCE personnel allegedly refused to respond to a police request to fetch a seriously injured man near the Sebokeng Post Office on March 26.

Police had to drive the injured man to Sebokeng Hospital themselves. He died of his shotgun wounds the following day.

This was testimony yesterday before the Goldstone commission by Const Jurie Geldenhuys and Sgt Rudgerd van Huyssteen of the Krugersdorp Reaction Unit.

The men testified about the rioting in the Lekoa area which followed after police shot at a 50 000-strong crowd in Sebokeng just before noon on March 26, killing five protesters and injuring 76.

The two policemen described two incidents. In the first, they said, a 400-strong crowd of shop looters armed with pangas and sticks stoned, surrounded and attacked them when they tried to arrest looters. They had to shoot their way out and four people were killed.

Van Huyssteen denied that the crowd had not stormed them but instead had run away.

Post-mortem reports said the four dead men had been shot in the back and in their upper bodies.

Van Huysteen denied he had aimed at the upper bodies and said he had aimed at the legs.

Describing the second incident, Geldenhuys said their police vehicle had been forced to stop at a road block made of large boulders and stones, near the post office.

A crowd of about 1 000 people attacked them. He said they fired tearsmoke and rubber bullets and used truncheons to disperse the crowd, but without success.

Van Huyssteen shot the "agitator" who had been urging the crowd to attack the policemen and who had thrown stones.

The "agitator" died later from one SSG-buckshot shotgun shell in the back of the head.

The crowd then dispersed. This was when the policemen called in vain for an ambulance. — Sapa.

unlawful. Police will take appropriate action," he said. - Sapa-Reuter.

Venda freed

Sowetan 6/6/90 (113)

THE chairman of Venda's ruling Council of National Unity, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, has announced the immediate lifting of the state of emergency in the homeland.

In a message broadcast over a local television channel last night, Ramushwana said political prisoners would also be freed unconditionally as soon as administrative formalities had been completed. - Sapa.

Star 7/4/13 7/6/90

Venda, Ciskei recognised

(113)

THE government decided yesterday to officially recognise the recently-formed military governments of Venda and Ciskei.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha said both governments enjoyed wide support and maintained good relations with South Africa.

Brigadier Oupa J Gqozo and his Military Council took control of Ciskei in a military coup on March 4.

Colonel Gabriel M Ramushwana took control of Venda on April 5. — Sapa

Star 7/4/90

(113)

Recognition for Venda, Ciskei govts

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — The Government has formally recognised the coup d'etat governments of Ciskei and Venda, Foreign Minister Pik Botha said last night.

Pretoria had shown Ciskei's government, headed by Brigadier Oupa Gqozo since the coup on March 4, *de facto* recognition through co-operation on a wide range of activities, he said.

The new government enjoyed wide support, Mr Botha said.

In Venda, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana and his Council of National Unity took over on April 5 soon after President Ravele resigned.

South Africa had also given the territory *de facto* recognition.

ment ahead, we are entering a new phase in which, from these benches, a new spirit of leadership will be reaching out beyond the confines within which we are operating at present, which will include support from all sections of the population for certain basic political principles that South Africans of all persuasions have in common with each other. [Time expired.] Hansard 12/6/90

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

Questions standing over from Tuesday, 29 May 1990:

Strand: private resort

*10. Adv C H PIENAAR asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:†

(1) Whether a private resort being developed at the Strand extends from private land on the coast into the sea in the form of a pier; if so, Hansard 12/6/90

(2) whether the State-owned land falling within this development was obtained in terms of an agreement with the State; if so, what are the terms and conditions of the agreement; if not, what is the official policy in regard to developments by private persons on State-owned land on the coast?

B1117E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING (for the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs):

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes; the State-owned land affected by the development has been leased to a development company in terms of the Sea-Shore Act (Act 21 of 1935). The lease agreement between the Cape Provincial Administration and the developer is a standard agreement that is normally used in such cases and the rental is determined by the Treasury. As it is such a voluminous document it is not practicable to read the whole document to the House. The document can be placed at the disposal of the hon member if he so wishes.

†Mr C H PIENAAR: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply I should like to know from him, if someone looks at the contents of the agreement which is now available, whether he may publish it so that one can get access to it and whether it is a secret document.

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, it stands to reason that it is not a secret document. It is a contract entered into by the Cape Provincial Administration, and the public has the right to see it. It is however not necessary to throw it around in the House or to distribute it outside. The hon member can come and look at it, and if he would like to make the contents known, he is welcome to do so. Hansard 12/6/90

Question standing over from Tuesday, 5 June 1990:

Certain person: charges pending

*3. Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether there are any charges pending against a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply; if so, (a) what is the nature of these charges and (b) when is it anticipated that they will be brought to court;

(2) whether this person is out on bail at present; if so,

(3) whether he has become implicated in any other cases whilst out on bail; if so, what are the relevant details,

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B1127E

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) to (4) On 7 August 1989 Jerome Mncwabe was arrested on various charges of murder, attempted murder and public violence. On 8 August 1989 he was released on bail by the court.

On 9 December 1989 he was once again arrested on various charges of murder. On his appearance before the court, his application for bail was refused. During February 1990 he appealed against the refusal of the court to grant him bail. His appeal was upheld and he was thereafter released on bail.

During April 1990 further charges of murder and attempted murder were lodged against him. However, on 16 May 1990, before he could be arrested on these charges, he was murdered.

New questions:

Voters' roll: removal of name of certain person

*1. Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs:†

Whether application has been made for the name of a certain person, particulars of whom have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, to be removed from the voters' roll; if so, (a) at whose request, (b) on what date and (c) what is the name of the person concerned?

B1186E

†The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

No.

(a), (b) and (c) fall away.

†Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, I should like to know on what grounds the particular person's name was removed.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, my Department removed his name from the voters' roll.

†Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the reply I should like to ask the hon the Minister on whose application the Department removed this name?

†An HON MEMBER: And why?

†The MINISTER: In 1989 the hon member's voter Mr Strydom died. [Interjections.]

†Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the reply I should like to ask the hon the Minister if the name of the voter who died was removed after or before he died.

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, he died on 28 September 1989 and his name was removed on 14 November 1989.

Unrest in Natal: persons killed/injured

*2. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Law and Order:† Hansard 12/6/90

(a) How many persons have been (i) killed and (ii) injured since the beginning of the present unrest in Natal and (b) in respect of what period is this information furnished?

Hansard 12/6/90 B1189E

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

Mr Speaker, if the hon member Mr H D K van der Merwe has finished seeing the ghost, I may perhaps continue replying to the question. [Interjections.]

(a) (i) 612

(ii) 513

(b) 1 January 1990 until 31 May 1990.

Military government of Venda: recognition

*3. Adv C D DE JAGER asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:† 113

Whether the Government recognises the military government of Venda; if so, with effect from what date; if not, why not?

Hansard 12/6/90 B1190E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

Yes. I set out the Government's position as follows in a statement of 6 June 1990:

"Kolonel G M Ramushwana het die bewind in Venda op 5 April 1990 oorgeneem, pas nadat President Ravele bedank het.

Kolonel Ramushwana het 'n Raad van Nasionale Eenheid saamgestel bestaande uit private persone, beamptes asook veiligheidspersoneel.

Sedert die bewindsoorname het die RSA *de facto* erkenning aan die Regering van Venda gegee deur samewerking op verskeie terreine.

Kolonel Ramushwana en sy Regering het sedert sy bewindsoorname suksesvolle stappe gedoen om die onrussituasie in Venda onder beheer te kry. Ook het sy Regering bewys gelewer van sy bereidwilligheid om goeie verhoudings met die RSA te handhaaf. Die Regering van Venda het daarin geslaag om effektiewe beheer oor die land te handhaaf en geniet wye ondersteuning. Gevolglik het die Suid-Afrikaanse Regering vandag besluit om die Regering van Venda formeel te erken."

†Dr W J SNYMAN: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply I should like to ask him whether the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs at any time shortly before the change of government advised the former head

of state of Venda with regard to the ANC and Black trade unions. Hansard 12/6/90 (113)

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I respectfully suggest that the hon member have the question put on the Question Paper.

Foreign companies: re-establishment after withdrawal

*4. Mr A P OOSTHUIZEN asked the Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism:†

(1) Whether any foreign companies who withdrew from South Africa for political reasons during the past five years have re-established themselves in South Africa since 2 February 1990; if so, how many;

(2) whether he will furnish the names of the companies concerned; if not, why not; if so, what are their names?

Hansard 12/6/90 B1191E

†The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND TOURISM:

(1) and (2) It is not possible to furnish the desired information as no specific register is kept of the investments, disinvestments or re-investments of foreign companies in South Africa. If a foreign company itself establishes a place of business in South Africa, it is required in terms of section 322 of the Companies Act, 1973 to register as a foreign company. However, the practice generally followed is that a company which intends doing business in South Africa, forms a South African company as an own subsidiary company or in co-operation with others. In those cases it is virtually impossible to determine the relationship between the South African company and the foreign company as no distinction is made between incorporated companies which are locally or foreign owned. Disclosure of the beneficial shareholders of such companies is also not a requirement in terms of the Act.

Foreign companies registered in South Africa and locally incorporated companies which are under foreign control, are also not necessarily deregistered when they cease their business activities. The relevant company is normally used for other purposes, such as a share transfer office, or the shell which remains after the sale of the business assets is sold for conducting another type of business.

Furthermore, it should be borne in mind that not all foreign economic activities are conducted in corporate form and that use is also made of, amongst others, syndicates, partnerships, franchises and agencies, which are not subject to registration. Hansard 12/6/90

Prisons of neighbouring states: SA citizens detained

*5. Mr A P OOSTHUIZEN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

(1) Whether any South African citizens are at present (a) lawfully and (b) unlawfully detained in prisons of neighbouring states of the Republic of South Africa; if so, (i) how many and (ii) in which neighbouring states; Hansard 12/6/90

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B1192E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

It will for understandable reasons not be in the interest of the persons concerned to publish this information, but the Department of Foreign Affairs will be pleased to furnish available information to the hon member on a confidential basis. I can, however, assure the hon member that the South African Government at all times takes all conceivable steps to look after the interests of those concerned.

ANC representatives: expenses paid from State funds

*6. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Constitutional Development:†

Whether State funds were applied to pay for the (a) hotel expenses and (b) protection of the ANC representatives who stayed at Somerset West before and during the Groote Schuur talks between the ANC and the Government; if so, (i) what amount was spent in each case and (ii) from the funds of which State Departments? Hansard 12/6/90 B1195E

†The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

(a) (i) and (ii): R116 159,78 was paid from the funds of the Constitutional Development Service for accommodation and meals for ANC representatives and staff.

(b) (i) and (ii): The Constitutional Development Service was not responsible for protection. I wish to refer the hon member to Question No 455 for written reply.

†Adv S C JACOBS: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, were these funds originally budgeted for?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the mandate of the Constitutional Development Service is to arrange and organise conferences. There is a general point under that vote which makes provision for accommodating subsistence expenses of persons attending specific conferences and discussions.

†Dr W J SNYMAN: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, is it correct — if I heard correctly — that he said that the South African Government did not take responsibility for the protection of the ANC members? [Interjections.] If I heard correctly, who was responsible for protection at their place of residence and elsewhere?

†The MINISTER: The hon member did not hear correctly, Mr Speaker, but I should like to be of assistance to him. The written question, Question 455 to which I referred, is a question put to the hon the Minister of Law and Order. The SA Police, which falls under him, was responsible for protection.

†Adv C D DE JAGER: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, how many members comprised this delegation, and for how many people was this amount paid? [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER: I do not have exact numbers here, but the delegation consisted of 11 members. [Interjections.]

†Adv J J S PRINSLOO: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, can he give us an indication as to whether in the course of these negotiations which the Government envisages, it is his Department's intention to pay the hotel accommodation of everyone who is invited by them to hold discussions with them on a new constitution? [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the matter of the payment of accommodation expenses of persons attending conferences, depends on each case. In general, persons attending discussions or conferences must pay their own expenses. In this case, as was already the reply to a previous question, the security organisation concerned and the Constitutional Development Service held the conviction that the task of protection, which was an extremely sensitive issue in this particular case, would be best served if the Government, through the Constitutional Development Service, took responsibility for the accommodation of these people. [Interjections.]

†Adv S C JACOBS: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, he has now indicated that this accommodation was paid for out of moneys budgeted for conferences. I would now like to inquire of the hon the Minister what percentage of the funds budgeted for conferences the cost of this accommodation comprises.

†The MINISTER: I thank the hon member for the compliment that he thinks that I carry so many figures in my head, but I do not carry them in my head. [Interjections.]

West German Embassy: prisons service officers

*7. Adv C D DE JAGER asked the Minister of Justice:† Hansard 12/6/90

(1) Whether the Government recently, after consultations with five suspended Non-White prisons service officers who were occupying a portion of the West German Embassy in Cape Town, indicated that these five, as well as approximately 400 other suspended and/or dismissed Non-White prisons service officers, would be reinstated in service; if so,

(2) whether the officers concerned have been reinstated in service; if so, (a) on what grounds and (b) when?

B1196E

† The DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) and (2)

The Government did not negotiate with the five suspended members of the Prisons Service who occupied a portion of the West German Embassy.

On 17 May 1990 I visited the Johannesburg Prison. This visit was arranged and planned during the previous week and had as an object a conversation with the warders. Amongst this large group of warders whom I met was also a large number of warders who had previously been suspended but had since then resumed their duties unconditionally. After the visit I released a statement to the effect that all other suspended members in the remainder of the country could apply for the lifting of their

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

† Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Pretoria police district: offences

384. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many cases of (a) murder, (b) culpable homicide, (c) assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, (d) common assault, (e) rape, (f) robbery, (g) theft of vehicles and cycles, (h) damage to property, (i) housebreaking with intent to steal and theft and (j) possession of drugs were reported at each specified police station in the Pretoria police district in 1989? B912E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Pretoria Central	18	21	201	923	67	437	1 025	390	739	2
Sunnyside	4	14	46	385	19	38	1 016	487	836	1
Pretoria West	14	29	107	513	34	97	362	246	558	1
Brooklyn	11	41	91	313	20	93	1 253	171	2 351	0
Wierdabrug	9	21	108	213	21	68	639	151	863	1
Erasmia	4	13	52	60	14	27	32	34	183	0
Atteridgeville	26	8	706	1 079	157	337	136	406	247	0
Lyttelton	9	35	62	134	10	29	364	127	686	0
Laudium	2	9	120	215	27	34	99	7	141	7

Note: Because the South African Police is not satisfied with the crime situation in the RSA, crime tendencies are continuously monitored. I wish to assure the honourable member that everything possible is being done to prevent crime. When it is apparent that there is an increase in crime, active steps are taken to counteract this tendency.

RSA Policy Review

483. Mr P G SOAL asked the State President:

Whether the periodical *RSA Policy Review* is produced by the Bureau for Information; if so, (a) at what total cost is it printed, (b) how many (i) English and (ii) Afrikaans copies of each issue are printed, (c) how many persons subscribe to this periodical and (d) in respect of what date and/or period is this information furnished? B1111E

The STATE PRESIDENT:

The periodical *RSA Policy Review* is published by the Bureau for Information.

(a) The total printing cost for both *RSA Beleidsoorsig* and *RSA Policy Review* amounts to an average of R22 400 a month. Ten issues are published per annum.

(b) (i) The highest monthly figure for English was 5 200 copies in July and August 1989, and the figure for March 1990 was 3 560 copies.

(ii) The highest monthly figure for Afrikaans was 4 100 copies for July and August 1989 and the figure for March 1990 was 2 760.

(c) English subscriptions totalled 1 762 and Afrikaans 2 357 in March 1990.

(d) These facts are in respect of the financial year April 1989 to March 1990.

Bophuthatswana: financing of projects

492. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether his Department approved any projects in Bophuthatswana to be financed in part or in whole with moneys appropriated by Parliament in the 1989-90 financial year; if so,

(2) (a) what is the (i) name and (ii) nature of the project, (b) where is it situated, (c) what is the estimated total capital cost of the project, and (d) how much of this cost is to be borne by the South African Government, in each case? B1146E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

(2) (a) (i) (ii) (b) (c) (d)

1989/90 FINANCIAL YEAR

Name of project	*Nature of project*	*Where situated*	*Estimated total capital cost*	*RSA contribution* °
Mogwase Prison	Construction of a new prison	Mogwase	R18,746 million	R12,572 million
Odi Hospital	New regional hospital	Odi	R16,214 million	R13,171 million
Temba Cellblock	Construction of cells	Temba police station	R770 00	R539 000
Odi Prison Agricultural Project	Construction of a store and small abattoir	Odi	R253 000	R177 000
Magistrate's Offices	Additions at Taung and new office at Pampierstad	Taung and Pampierstad	R1,030 million	R721 000
Border Posts	Upgrading of border posts	Ramatlabama and Skilpadshek	R2,185 million	R1,530 million
Community Classrooms	Construction of classrooms	Various schools (89)	R5,780 million	R3,063 million

° The RSA contribution is reflected in the year when the agreement was signed, while expenditure is spread over a number of years.

Venda: financing of projects

493. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether his Department approved any projects in Venda to be financed in part or in whole with moneys appropriated by Parliament in the 1989-90 financial year; if so,

(2) (a) what is the (i) name and (ii) nature of the project, (b) where is it situated, (c) what is the estimated total capital cost of the project, and (d) how much of this cost is to be borne by the South African Government, in each case? B1147E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes

(2) (a) (i) (ii) (b) (c) (d)

1989/90 FINANCIAL YEAR

Name of project	*Nature of project*	*Where situated*	*Estimated total capital cost*	*RSA contribution* °
Housing: seconded staff	Erection of 50 houses for seconded personnel	Sibasa	R5,510 million	R4,407 million

Offices and houses for Venda officials	Construction of offices and houses for Venda officials	Mutale, Sinthumule and Thohoyandou districts	R306 000	R306 000
Additional court and office accommodation	Construction of an additional court building and 26 government offices	Thohoyandou	R2,805 million	R2,244 million

° The RSA contribution is reflected in the year when the agreement was signed, while expenditure is spread over a number of years.

Ciskei: financing of projects

494. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether his Department approved any projects in Ciskei to be financed in part or in whole with moneys appropriated by Parliament in the 1989-90 financial year; if so,

(2) (a) what is the (i) name and (ii) nature of the project, (b) where is it situated, (c) what is the estimated total capital cost of the project, and (d) how much of this cost is to be borne by the South African Government, in each case?

B1148E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

(2) (a) (i) (ii) (b) (c) (d)

1989/90 FINANCIAL YEAR

Name of project	*Nature of project*	*Where situated*	*Estimated total capital cost*	*RSA contribution °*
Ciskei Prisons Development	Upgrading and provision of prison facilities	Sada/Whittlesea, Mdantsane and Middledrift	R25,133 million	R15,080 million

° The RSA contribution is reflected in the year when the agreement was signed, while expenditure is spread over a number of years.

House of Assembly electoral divisions: Tvl/OFS

508. Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of Home Affairs:†

(a) What is the total area of the electoral divisions of the House of Assembly in the (i) Transvaal and (ii) Orange Free State and (b) what percentage of the area of the above-mentioned provinces is represented by the electoral divisions won by candidates of each specified political party in the general election of 6 September 1989?

B1179E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(a) (i) 263 524 km²

(ii) 128 162 km²

(b) The percentage of area represented by the electoral divisions won by the parties concerned are shown as (i) below. Opposite that, as (ii), the number of voters registered at the time of the election in the corresponding electoral divisions are shown as a percentage of the total number of registered voters in the province concerned:

	(i)	(ii)
Transvaal		
NP	4,7%	45,2%
CP	94,8%	39,8%
DP	0,5%	14,9%
Orange Free State		
NP	51,5%	56,4%
CP	48,5%	43,6%
Total (Transvaal and Orange Free State)		
NP	19,9%	46,6%
CP	79,7%	40,3%
DP	0,4%	13,1%

Ciskei: amount paid by SA

510. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) (a) What total amount was paid by South Africa to Ciskei in the 1989-90 financial year in terms of agreements between the two countries and (b) how was this amount made up;

(2) whether any additional amounts have been paid to Ciskei in the form of (a) loans or (b) grants; if so, (i) how many, and (ii) what was the amount of the loan or grant, in each case;

(3) whether any further (a) loans or (b) grants are envisaged in the 1990-91 financial year; if so, what loans or grants?

B1200E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) An estimated amount of R743 320 660.

(b) The amount mentioned in (a) is made up as follows:

A. *Direct assistance*

(i) Budgetary assistance: R437 199 926.

(ii) Technical assistance: R802 000.

(iii) Loan fund: R20 359 114.

(iv) Incentive scheme for industries: R16 098 888.

B. *Transfers in terms of bilateral agreements*

(i) Tax compensation: R40 523 332.

(ii) Share in Customs Union Revenue Pool: R221 776 000.

(iii) Common Monetary Area: R6 561 400.

(2) (a) No. Loan in terms of project aid agreements are included in the amount mentioned under (1) (a).

(i) and (ii) fall away.

(b) Yes.

(i) One.

(ii) Transfers in respect of the action programme: Creation of job opportunities are estimated at R4 995 317.

(3) (a) Yes. Loans are granted on a continuous basis within the framework of the Economic Co-operation Promotion Loan Fund.

(b) Yes. The same type of grant which was made during the 1989/90 financial year.

Venda: entrepreneurs/companies subsidised by SA

514. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether any entrepreneurs/companies received subsidies from the South African Government to encourage them to establish industries in Venda in 1989; if so,

(2) what was the total value of the subsidies so received in the 1988-89 financial year?

B1204E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

(2) R3 148 392.

Ciskei: entrepreneurs/companies subsidised by SA

515. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether any entrepreneurs/companies received subsidies from the South African Government to encourage them to establish industries in Ciskei in 1989; if so,

(2) what was the total value of the subsidies so received in the 1988-89 financial year?

B1205E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

(2) R31 310 570.

3 Venda academics resign

Star 2/7/90 (113)

Own Correspondent

THOHOYANDO — Three Venda University lecturers have resigned.

They are Professor A L P Cairns, head of the department of crop science; Mr P N Ndou, head of the department of mercantile law; and Professor T J van Heerden, the registrar, who is head of the department of criminal law.

Professor Cairns told The Star he believed in evolution, not revolution, as far as the future was concerned. He said he had gained a great deal of experience from working in Venda.

He felt the new government of Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana would not succeed, as long as it retained its directors-general.

Mr Ndou indicated that he would be joining a private practice.

Professor van Heerden donated 150 criminal justice books to the university library, as a gesture of goodwill.

Big welcome for exiled Lutheran

113

By MOSES MAMAILA

THOUSANDS of people attended a rally to welcome Lutheran Church Dean Tshenuwani Samsan Farisani at Thohoyandou Stadium, Venda, yesterday.

Farisani, who arrived in the country last week after spending three-and-a-half years in the United States, said he was forced to leave the country because of police harassment.

He said that before he left he received a letter through the South African Embassy in Venda restricting his movements. Sowetan 9/7/90

An author of books like "Justice in my Tears", Farisani said he received letters from both the South African Government and Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana's ruling council reassuring him of his safety and that his restrictions were lifted.

"While abroad I exposed the cruelties of apartheid to the United Nations, Organisation of African Unity, Commonwealth countries and the Non-Aligned Movement. I also visited your exiled sons in Zambia, Tanzania and other countries," he said.

Farisani said the Lutheran Church congregants, together with other Christians, would not keep quiet and support apartheid, "which is sin". He called on Ramushwana to reincorporate Venda into South Africa.

Call for dismissal of 20 Venda govt officials for 'corruption'

Star 10/7/90 (113)

Own Correspondent

THOHOYANDOU — The Venda Public Service Association is demanding the dismissal of 20 directors—general of government departments because of their alleged involvement in corruption under the government of former president Frank Ravele.

At its weekly meeting held last week, the PSA resolved that the directors-general be dismissed because of their alleged involvement in the misuse of public funds amounting to hundreds of thousands of rands, PSA spokesman Isaac Mudau said.

He said the dismissals should be "with immediate effect".

He said they deserved dismissal because of their alleged involvement in the downfall of the (previous) government.

Mr Ravele's government was overthrown in a bloodless coup led by Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana.

Asked whether he would accede to the PSA's demands, Colonel Ramushwana said he did not act on hearsay but would await findings of a commission of inquiry investigating allegations of corruption by the ousted government.

Call to dismiss 20 Venda government department heads

Sowetan 11/7/90

(113)

Sowetan Correspondent

THE Venda Public Service Association is demanding the dismissal of 20 director-generals of government departments because of their alleged involvement in corruption under the government of President Frank Ravele.

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Ravele's government was overthrown in a bloodless coup led by Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana.

Asked whether he would accede to the PSA's demands, Ramushwana said he did not act on hearsay but would await findings of a commission of inquiry investigating allegations of corruption by the ousted government.

"I know that some of the director-generals are guilty but this still has to be proved," he added.

Graft in Venda's Agriven

Sowetan 23/7/90

(113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU and MOSES MAMAILA

THE Venda government has been pumping millions of rands into a loss-making parastatal agricultural company riddled with corruption and racism, the Taylor Commission of Inquiry heard on Friday.

The commission also heard that some white executives at the company, Agriven, gave jobs to their relatives.

Testifying before the commission Mr A T Mulaudzi, Agriven's head

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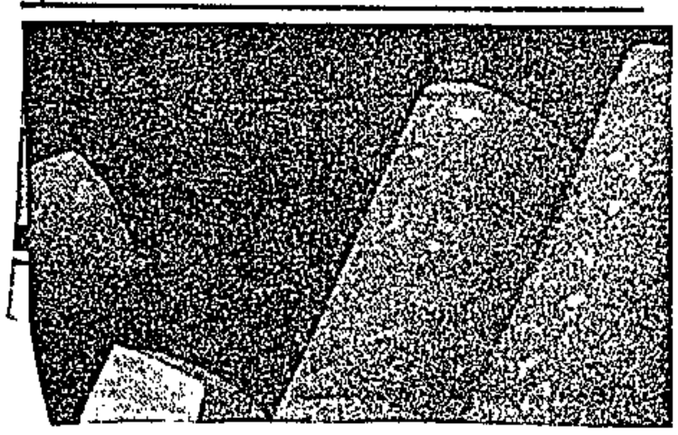


Corruption

From Page 1

of the industrial relations, said about R20-million was granted this year to sustain the corporation. He said some of the money was used to pay school fees for children of white officials. The children, he said, attended school in far-away places although there were multiracial schools in the bantustan.

Sowetan 23/7/90

Mulaudzi said whites who managed collapsing projects were retained on the staff with no job description while blacks were retrenched.

(113)

He told the commission's chairman, Lieutenant Leon Taylor, that racism was rampant at the corporation.

Of the 11 managers at Agriven, only two were black. The whites were under-qualified and most of them had no responsibilities.

Officials' 'useless' trips cost R100 000

CAPE TIMES 27/7/90

THOHOYANDOU, Venda. — The non-profitmaking Venda Agricultural Corporation had spent an estimated R100 000 on "useless" overseas trips for white officials, the Taylor Commission of Inquiry heard here yesterday.

In his testimony to Mr W R Mudau, who presided yesterday, Mr A T Mulaudzi, head of industrial relations at Venda's agricultural corporation, Agrivan, said his chief executive officer, Mr Pieter Oosthuizen, visited a coffee plantation in Brazil although the corporation had no such project.

Mr Mulaudzi also said Mr Oosthuizen had visited Italy and later ordered a new irrigation machine costing more than R25 000, which had since been left to rust as it could not be used.

The commission also heard of more than R45 000 being lost when 40 hectares of maize were not harvested, but left to rot. Mr Mulaudzi attributed this to corporation's gross negligence. — Sapa

113

Part of the Soweto train commuters' protest group

Thousands thrown away

THE non-profit-making Venda Agricultural Corporation had spent an estimated R100 000 on "useless" overseas trips for white officials, the Taylor Commission of Inquiry heard in Thohoyandou on Thursday.

The head of industrial relations at Agrivan, Venda's agricultural corporation, AT Mulaudzi, said his chief executive officer, Pieter Oosthuizen, visited a coffee plantation in Brazil, although the corporation had no such project.

Mulaudzi also revealed Oosthuizen visited Italy and later ordered a new irrigation machine costing more than R25 000, which could not be used.

Oosthuizen, who earned R127 000 a year, had failed to produce a matric certificate since 1981.

He said grass for animal feed had also been left to rot and fertiliser amounting more than R40 000 was used on soil in which nothing had been planted.

"Agrivan has everything, including offices, equipment and rich soil, which we can utilise, but nothing is produced because the top structure is not committed to the development of Venda," said Mulaudzi.

The commission, probing allegations of corruption in Agrivan, is one of several set up by the Venda military government which took over the homeland in April. – Sapa.

(113) C/Press 29/7/90

Venda rulers threatened with law suit

(113) Sowetan 2/8/90

By MATHATHA TSEDU

HIGH drama and nullification of evidence yesterday characterised the Venda Commission of Inquiry into corruption and nepotism.

This followed a threat by the director-general for justice to bring court action if evidence about his alleged corruption was published in the government-owned newspaper.

Mr Samuel Ratshilumela Mothige, acting in his personal capacity, threw a spanner in the works on Monday when his lawyer, Mr Aly Lukoto, told the government to withdraw publication of the offending article or face a Supreme Court action.

Mothige asserted that evidence led before the commission about his alleged activities was null and void because at the time of testimony, the chairman of the commission, Lieutenant Leon Taylor, was absent.

Surprise development

And in a surprise development yesterday, Taylor, who has been absent from the hearings on several occasions, reappeared and ruled that the evidence given in his absence was indeed invalid.

Taylor said the witnesses would be called back on Sunday morning to testify again before him.

The announcement means that all the evidence given in his absence involving other people and institutions such as Agriven, have also been nullified and the witnesses might also be recalled.

Legal sources said it was improper and unacceptable, legally, for the chairman of the commission, who has been delegated with authority, to delegate the authority further.

The article, which was due to be publised tomorrow in the government mouthpiece *Thohoyandou*, was withdrawn after the department's legal adviser and the military ruler, Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, ordered that publication should be stopped.

SOWETAN Monday August 6 1990

Sowetan 6/8/90

113

Silent witness

By MATHATHA TSEDU

LAST week's edition of Venda's mouthpiece, Thoho ya Ndou, appeared with a three-quarter page empty space following a threat by the Director-General for Justice to institute court action if an article about him was published.

Frantic efforts by officials of the Department of Information and Broadcasting on Thursday, following an order by the governmwnt to stop publication of the articles, led to the gaping space that is sure to set tongues wagging.

The drama began on Monday when Justice Department boss Mr Samuel Ratshilumela Muthige, acting in his personal capacity, sent a letter through his attorney ordering the Information Department to stop publication of an article based on testimony at the Taylor Commission of Inquiry into corruption.

Muthige said the article would damage his image, would be sensational and one-sided. He said the evidence on which the article would be based was invalid, as the commission was improperly constituted at the time of the testimony because the chairman, Lieutenant Leon Taylor, was absent.

Muthige said in the letter that failure to comply with his order would lead to a Supreme Court interdict.

After quick consultations with lawyers and military supremo Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, Information Director-General Mr N D Nethononda issued a "kill" order on the article.

The following day Taylor convened the commission and announced that the disputed evidence was indeed valid. He ordered that the witnesses be recalled to testify before him yesterday morning.

But the hearing failed to materialise amidst reports that one of the commission members was about to resign. Reliable sources said there was dissatisfaction among commission members about the cancellation of hearings scheduled for Saturday to hear further evidence about Agriven and yesterday's events.

Legal sources have pointed out that it is unlawful for a commission to continue in the absence of the appointed chairman. Taylor's seeming ignorance of this basic rule has raised questions about his ability to head such an important commission.

Taylor has been absent from the hearing on several occasions.

Students set their book needs today

Sowetan 6/8/90

(1/3)

THE regional council of the students' representative councils will hand in a list of textbooks to the Department of Education in Thoho Ya Ndou, Venda today following a protest march by thousands of pupils to the department's offices on Friday.

Pupils from various schools in Venda gathered at Makwarela Stadium on Friday morning and marched on the department's offices where they handed in a petition to the Director-General for Education, Mr S Ramavhoya.

Pupils demanded textbooks, recreational facilities, the renovation of schools, more teachers and the transformation of Bantu Education into what they termed "peoples' education".

Ramavhua told the pupils delegation to bring the list of text books today. He said books were available.

He said the department had set aside R800-million for educational facilities.

The regional organiser, Mr Jackie Makhani, said it was suprising that up to five pupils had to share a book while the department stored books unused.

Corruption probe told of 164 new Venda posts

(113) Sowetan 8/8/90

A TOTAL of 164 posts, including those of director-general and directors were unconstitutionally created by the late Venda president Chief PR Mphephu and these cost the bantustan an additional annual expenditure of R1,7 million.

By MOSES MAMAILA

This was heard in Thohoyandou yesterday by the Taylor commission into corruption.

The deputy director-general for public service commission, Mr Ntshavheni Nemakonde, told the commission that most of the posts were unnecessary and that they were not budgeted for.

Nemakonde said some of the posts were initiated by some individuals who had access to the president.

The commission heard that Mphephu did not give reasons for creating the posts.

By doing this, Mphephu had contravened Section 23 of the Venda Constitution which empowered him only to dismiss and appoint candidates.

Asked by the commission how he felt when qualified personnel were ignored in favour of underqualified people, Nemakonde said: "It was demoralising and frustrating".

The commission was told that Mr Samuel Ratshilumela Muthige, who last week ordered the information department to stop publication of an article based on his evidence, was also promoted from senior magistrate to director-general for justice through such a directive.

Some Venda ministers, like Mr S Makhuvha, were mentioned in a long list of "unmotivated" promotions sanctioned during Mphephu's reign.

Venda police storm SA Embassy

Sowetan 15/8/90

(113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

MEMBERS of the Venda Police Force stormed into the South African Embassy in Sibasa last Thursday and arrested three policemen who were holed up there to escape dismissals.

This was disclosed yesterday.

The South African Embassy, approached by *Sowetan* yesterday for comment on the violation of its diplomatic privacy, said its official reaction was "no comment".

The three policemen Mr Takalani Mphephu, Mr Mashudu Mudzusi and Mr Thomas Simethi, appeared in the Thohoyandou Magistrate's Court on Friday charged with trespassing and are presently in custody.

Informed sources said the embassy had telephoned the police after they walked into the premises and declared their intention to stay there until their dismissals were reversed.

A contingent of policemen, travelling in riot unit vehicles, drove into the embassy grounds. The three policemen were arrested and taken away.

Misconduct

Sources said the dismissal of the three was part of the ongoing process that started more than a week ago and has left more than 30 policemen without jobs due to alleged misconduct committed during the previous regime.

Mphephu is the younger brother of the late life president of the bantustan, Chief Patrick Mphephu.

Information in the possession of *Sowetan* is that a list of over 200 policemen to be dismissed has been compiled.

The list includes policemen who allegedly interfered with cases during the Mphephu and Ravele era which ended with the April military coup.

Venda police commissioner, General DK Genis, said yesterday the three policemen had already been dismissed when the embassy incident took place. He declined to discuss the incident.

He denied that 200 policemen were to be dismissed and said the list contained less than 50 names. He said affected policemen had been served with notices informing them that a board of inquiry was to probe allegations of misconduct against them.

The dismissals follow a hardening of attitudes in the police department.

Genis, who was appointed commissioner in May, recently issued orders that policemen should not join trade unions or wear colours of political organisations.

United Democratic Movement is being [illegible] authorities.

Venda students books' lobby pays dividends

113

VENDA'S education department is to distribute much-needed textbooks at the homeland's schools this week.

The move follows a meeting between the homeland's authorities and the regional council of the students representative councils in Thohoyandou on Friday. Sowetan 28/8/90

The Director-General for Education Mr S Ramavhoya confirmed that the textbooks, including the study guides, would be distributed at schools.

The meeting between the two parties follows weeks of lobbying by the local SRCs to force the authorities to distribute more schoolbooks.

Spokesmen for the SRCs claimed the shortage of books at schools was so serious that the pupil/textbook ratio was 5:1.

A fortnight ago, thousands of local pupils marched on education department office to demand books.

A student leader, Mr Livhalani Nefale, said they had also urged the authorities to cancel plans to send local pupils to KwaNdebele to represent the bantustan at inter-homeland sports games there.

Police guard for pupils in Venda circuit

Sowetan 3/9/90

(113)

By MOSES MAMAILA

PUPILS in Sibasa, Venda, may be taught under police guard from today after a group of youths allegedly disrupted classes last week.

A senior Venda official, Mr J N Ndwammbi, said the education authorities were contemplating such a move to protect pupils.

Pupils at Mbilwi Secondary School alleged that a group of youths carrying sticks disrupted lessons last Friday.

Other circuit schools include Phaswana, Raluswielo and Mphaphuli secondary schools.

Local pupils have voiced their anger at the move to deploy police at their schools.

But Mbilwi youths said although pupils ran out of their classes, they only wanted to call them for a meeting to discuss increasing threats on political activists, allegedly made by members of a rival organisation.

They said Mbilwi Village was to be the first target because the upheavals that brought down the previous government started there.

The secretary of the cultural organisation, Mr P Nethengwe, declined to comment on the allegations. He referred *Sowetan* to the chairman, Mr J K Mutele, for comment. Mutele could not be reached.

Rumours have been circulating in the area, especially at Mbilwi Village, that activists who were involved in a coup in the homeland would be dealt with.

A skull believed to be that of Tshinakaho Mugibi, an alleged ritual murder victim, was found in a Mbilwi veld early this year. This led to the arrest of the local chief, Mr M M Mphaphuli, who was also a cabinet minister.

Mphaphuli is out on R5 000 bail.

Retrenchments are blamed on basic wage call

Sowetan 10/9/90

By MOSES MAMAILA

(113)

AT least 100 workers were retrenched at various factories in Shayandima, Venda, following the declaration of a minimum wage of R180 a month by the military government, it was revealed on Friday.

The Allied Workers Union general secretary, Mr Thivhilaeli Mutobvu, said that most of the retrenched workers earned between R100 and R130 a month

Last month the Venda government declared a minimum wage of R180 to all with effect from September this year.

The director of manpower, Mr T G Ravele, confirmed the retrenchments but said he was unaware that it was caused by the minimum wage declared by his government.

He said his department was investigating the matter.

However, Mr C Du, manager of South-East Knitwear, one of the affected factories, said the manpower department had approved the retrenchments.

Minimum

"It is shocking that while AWU was still demanding a better minimum wage, companies are retrenching workers to keep pace with the minimum wage of R180," Mutobvu said.

He warned that if nothing was done to help the workers, the government would face mass action.

A worker who said he had been employed in the same factory since 1981 said he had only had R5 increase in three years.

SOWETAN Monday
September 17 1990

Agriven official claims cover-up

By MOSES MAMAILA

THE Venda government has used more than R40 million since 1985 to sustain the state-owned Venda Agricultural Corporation, the Taylor Commission of Inquiry into corruption has heard.

Agriven's head of industrial relations, Mr AT Mulaudzi, told the commission on Friday that in one instance the corporation was given R11 million to invest but only R2 million was accounted for.

Sowetan 113
17/9/90

Failed

He said the chief executive officer, Mr Pieter du Toit Oosthuizen, who had failed to produce his matric certificate, earned R129 000 a year.

Oosthuizen was also paid a travel allowance of R50 324 during 1989/90.

"There are a lot of jokes at Agriven. When projects collapsed, whites who were managing them were promoted while black labourers were retrenched," Mulaudzi said.

He warned the commission that the management of Agriven was engaged in cover-up operations to render the commission ineffective.

W Mail 21/9 - 27/9/90 (113)

Corruption, mismanagement revealed in homelands probe

By GAVIN EVANS

THE shaky foundation of South Africa's "homelands" was highlighted this week by three judicial commissions of Inquiry looking into corruption in the Ciskei and Venda and violence in kwaNdebele.

In Pretoria the Parsons Commission of Inquiry, looking into the causes of the unrest in kwaNdebele in 1986 and 1987, reached a climax this week when Brigadier Hertzog Lerm, the police commissioner accused of backing the notorious Mbokotho vigilante group, was cross examined.

In Bisho, in the Ciskei, the Jardine Commission of Inquiry, investigating malpractices by present and past Ciskei public servants, heard how the homeland's Department of Works had been disbanded because of the "arrogance" of its officials.

And in Thohoyandou, the Taylor Commission of Inquiry into corruption in Venda heard about a cabinet minister "borrowing" a quarter of a million rand from the homeland's agricultural corporation and senior state officials going on spending sprees with government money.

The Parsons Commission, which has been in session since last year, heard on Monday that the former kwaNdebele Police Commissioner, Brigadier Hertzog Lerm, deliberately closed his eyes and ears to complaints of police brutality on detainees during the 1986/7 unrest.

The charge was made by George Bizos, QC, representing the Legal Resources Centre.

Lerm acknowledged that no policemen had been brought to trial despite eye witness reports of police assault in the *Star* in May 1987.

The Jardine Commission of Inquiry heard evidence from the Ciskei Councillor for Works, Mzimkhulu Mjolo, that his department had been disbanded because "its officials were arrogant" and overruled him.

Majolo, a director of property developing and a building contracting companies, acknowledged that he had been contracted to rebuild the Mdantsane rent offices burnt down after this year's military coup in the homeland, but said he did not know who approved this.

The Taylor Commission of Inquiry was told by Venda's head of economic services, A T Naledzani, that former Venda cabinet minister Headman T T Ramabulana owed the homeland's Agricultural Corporation R233 000. He also said that despite budget constraints, luxury cars were still being purchased for senior personnel — last Friday, the corporation bought a R52 000 car in cash for a manager.

Suspend top men, inquiry is urged

By MOSES MAMAILA

RECOMMENDATIONS for the suspension of the top management of the Venda Agricultural Corporation have been submitted to the military council, it was revealed on Friday.

In an interview, the chairman of the commission probing alleged corruption in the corporation, Lieutenant Leon Taylor, said the commission has submitted the recommendation to the council.

The action follows an application by some witnesses that the top management should be suspended if the commission is to be effective in its duty.

Two weeks ago Agriven's head of Industrial Relations, Mr AT Mulaudzi, and Mr AT Naledzani, head of economic services in the corporation, told the commission that the top management "perpetually harassed and intimidated witnesses to make the commission ineffective".

Mulaudzi said the top management was engaged in cover-up operations to vilify "authentic" evidence given before the commission.

(113)

Sowetan 24/9/90

Minister's land deal irregular - probe told

Sowetan 26/9/90

(113)

DESPITE Venda law prohibiting the purchase of land, former cabinet minister Mr A H Tshivhasa went ahead and sold 60ha to the Venda Agricultural Corporation, the Taylor Commission of inquiry into corruption heard in Thohoyandou this week.

Agriven's (Venda's agricultural body) manager of public relations, Mr Elias Mahanya, told commission chairman Lt Leon Taylor that the land was sold for R12 000 to the corporation.

Rent

According to Mahanya this was highly irregular because the corporation was supposed to rent the land at R10 a hectare a year.

The commission was also told by Mr V S Sididzhe, a senior accountant in Agriven's finance department, that white managers had instructed him to pay them without proof that goods were received.

This was contrary to the financial regulations which ordered Sididzhe to pay only for goods he was sure had been received.

'Forced'

In one such instance he was forced to pay a certain Mr de Klerk R8 000 a month. De Klerk was said to be training computer programmers.

Sididzhe said there had been no such training, because he was supposed to have been part of the programme but, because of the instructions, he was forced to pay. — *Sapa*.

SOWETAN Monday October 1 1990

Venda official is suspended

Sowetan 1/10/90 (113)

By MOSES MAMAILA

VENDA'S Director-General for Justice, Mr Samuel Muthige, has been suspended pending an investigation into allegations of irregularities in his department, the government-owned *Thoho Ya Ndou* newspaper announced at the weekend.

The paper said Muthige was suspended on September 26 pending the outcome of investigations.

Earlier, the Taylor Commission of Inquiry into corruption and nepotism heard that Muthige was "irregularly promoted" in 1985 from senior magistrate to his present post, jumping four ranks.

Time for Venda to come clean

(113)

Sowetan 5/10/90

FOCUS

By MATHATHA TSEDU

WHEN Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana took over government in Venda on April 5 this year, he promised a clean administration. Complaints brought to him then were referred to several commissions of inquiry set up immediately after the military take-over.

People against whom allegations of corruptions were made and substantiated were immediately suspended from their duties pending investigation.

Several policemen were suspended from duty and some later charged.

The chief executive officer of the bantustans' Development Corporation, Mr IT Nditwani, was suspended in July after allegations of financial irregularities. A commission has been set up to look into the financial affairs of the VDC and is hearing evidence in camera.

Fraud

Two weeks ago, the Director-General for Justice, Mr SR Muthige, was suspended from duty pending the outcome of investigations into allegations of fraud and other irregularities. Needless to say, all these officials are black.

Ramushwana's quick responses in these cases have, however, contrasted with his apparent reluctance to act against white officials at the state-financed Agriven who have been accused, in evidence before the Taylor Commission, of gross incompetence, embezzlement and cover-up activities.

The commission itself has recommended that these officials be suspended.

Officials of Agriven, who went to the commission to testify about the irregularities, are now alleging that top management is busy with cover-up activities and harassing them.

An office of the Industrial Relations Manager, Mr AT Mulaudzi, was recently broken into and several items, including documents already prepared for submission to the commission, were removed.

In a memorandum presented to the commission on September 12 four officers, who have already testified and who had earlier asked for action to be taken against top management, said officers who testified were being victimised.

Action

The four are Mr AT Naledzani, Mr AT Mulaudzi, Mr RE Makhado and Mr J Ramulondi.

The four expressed disappointment that their first request for action against management had been down-played by the commission to a mere warning to management to desist from such activities.

"The purported warning given to Agriven's top management did not serve any purpose; hence the status quo remains."

They then requested that the top management, which comprises eight whites and three blacks, be suspended forthwith; or that the head office be temporarily closed.

RAMUSHWANA

Commission chairman Lieutenant Leon Taylor later submitted a recommendation to Ramushwana's ruling council for the suspension of top management. A commission member has said there had so far been no response from the council.

Most people spoken to feel that the seeming reluctance to act on the recommendations of the commission is because most of the people involved are whites and that Ramushwana is wary or unable to suspend them.

Long

The publicity secretary of the council, Lieutenant-Colonel Brian du Toit, told *Sowetan* on Wednesday that no action had been taken against anyone at Agriven.

Asked why the council was taking so long to act on an interim recommendation designed to protect the viability of information led before the commission, Du Toit said a final report of the commission was being awaited.

Pressed on whether the council was not going to act on the interim recommendation, Du Toit said he would inquire from Ramushwana.

Racism

Evidence led before the commission so far has revealed a corporation riddled with corruption, racism, underhand deals and gross incompetence.

Some of the highlights are:

* Chief executive officer Mr Oosthuizen, earning over R127 000 a year, has so far failed to submit a matriculation certificate despite persistent requests over the years. Oosthuizen recently submitted an agricultural diploma certificate, a course which in years gone by could be done by anyone with a standard six pass.

* White officers who infringe regulations are given secret disciplinary hearings attended only by whites.

* 564 cattle valued at over R500 000, had disappeared from the Mannamead farm near Ha-Mulima. Some of the cattle were said to have "jumped from a moving truck and were never seen again". No investigations were carried out into these disappearances but register books were altered accordingly to show a reduced cattle count, the commission heard.

* White officers who had no managerial experience, were allocated projects to oversee. When these invariably collapsed, whites either maintained in their positions or promoted while the black staff were dismissed.

* Loans were given to former cabinet ministers without following proper procedures. These loans were used by these ministers to pay off other debts elsewhere.

* Cabinet ministers were paid for selling land to Agriven while Venda law does not allow such transactions.

* Former Agriculture director-general Mr MW Khuba was given a mulberry farm at Tsiyanda for which he did not pay. The corporation is presently trying to get him to pay R60 000 since the matter came up at the commission.

The corporation has been running at a loss since its inception eight years ago, with the state pumping millions of rands into it every year. These and other allegations led to the strained relations and allegations of victimisations by those responsible for the exposure.

Exposed

These men, who took it upon themselves to expose the irregularities, have asked the government, via the commission, for protection to ensure that the row is exposed.

The perception that has developed, namely that Ramushwana is unable or unwilling to act against the Agriven 11 because most of them are white, will remain until either they are suspended or an acceptable explanation is given why they are not.

For what people are saying is merely that if Nditwani and Muthige could be suspended on the basis of allegations without a commission recommendation what, besides Oosthuisen's race, stops the same from being done here. Ramushwana may find himself having to answer that quite soon.

Party tries out new look

Sowetan 8/10/90

(113)

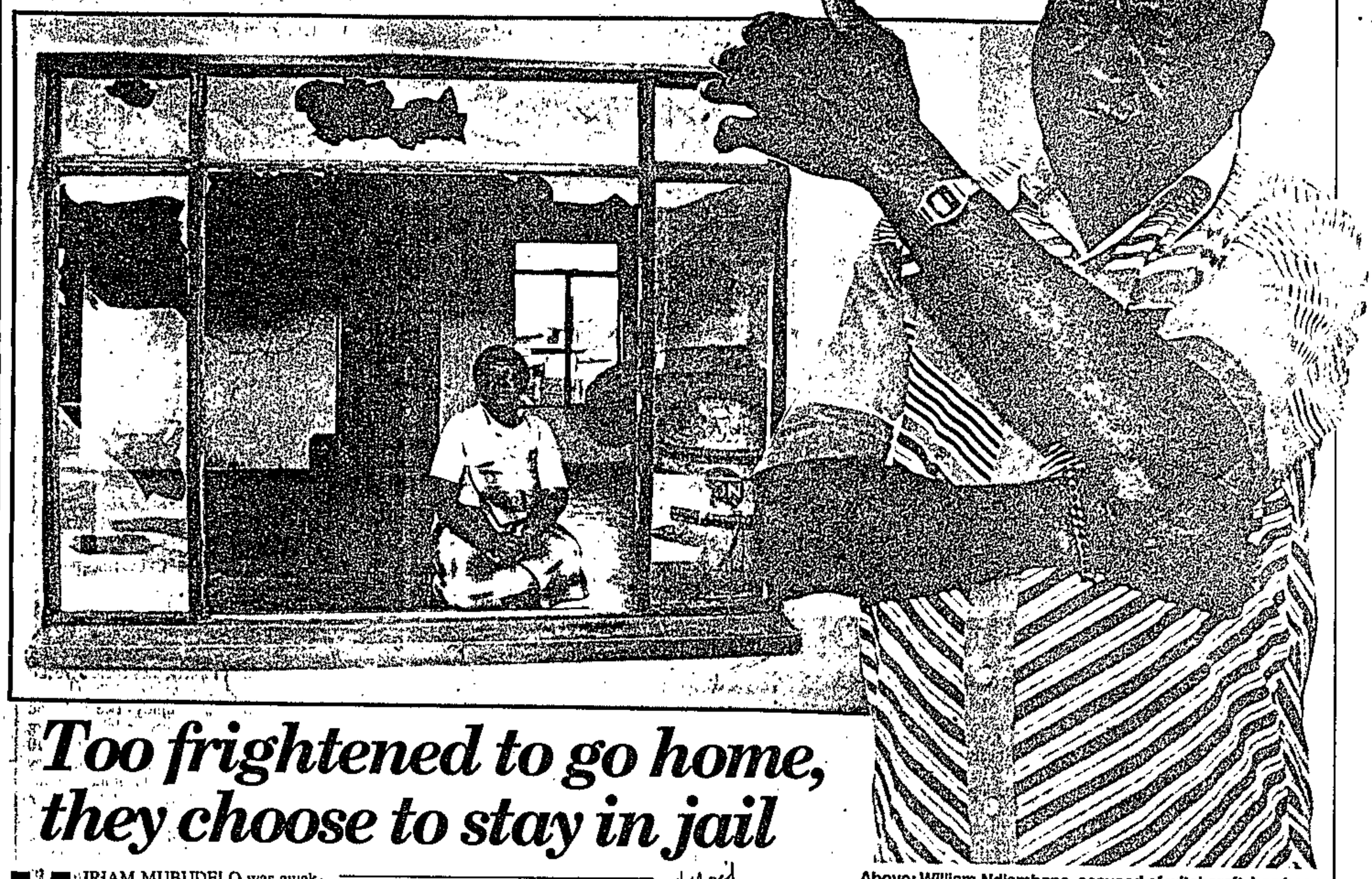
THE Venda National Party was only saying no to chiefs in order to get rid of old supporters of former Vendan President Frank Ravele and make the party more attractive to potential new members, the newly-elected chairman of the Sibasa branch of the African National Congress said on Saturday.

The old civilian government was toppled in April in a bloodless coup which brought Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana to power in the Northern Transvaal homeland.

Addressing about 100 people who attended the launch of the new ANC branch at Ralufwielo hall, Sibasa, Mr Magwedzha Mphaphuli said the organisation's elected executive was facing serious threats from the VNP, which was being revived.

The VNP, whose leadership is composed mainly of former cabinet members, was the centre of the controversy which resulted in the disruption of classes in July as pupils called for its disbandment. - Sapa

The 'Witches' of Venda



Above: William Ndlambane, accused of witchcraft, has been living in Dzanani police station since 1987
Left: Sophie Nemakhavhani gazes through the shattered window of her house, allegedly built by zombies

Pictures: ELLEN ELMENDORP

Too frightened to go home, they choose to stay in jail

Venda has one of the world's strangest refugee communities. More than 80 'witches' and their families fled their villages and sought safety at police stations

PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK reports

W/Mail 9/11/-15/11/90

113

MIRIAM MUBUDELO was awakened one night in February by voices in the distance and had an eerie sensation that something was wrong. Looking out, she saw hundreds of people advancing to her house in the remote Venda village of Matsa, singing freedom songs and chanting that she was a witch.

She fled on foot with her six children, only looking back when they reached the safety of Dzanani police station some kilometres away. There she found 12 other families living in a tent in the back of the police station, all with similar tales.

She met Selina Phuruvathu and her husband who were found guilty at a kangaroo court of striking their nephew dead with lightning and converting him into a zombie. The villagers had already started stoning the Phuruvathus when police arrived and escorted the couple and their four children to safety at the police station.

That was nine months ago. By now, some of the "witches" have returned to their villages. Others are still there, too frightened to return to the communities that have branded them guilty of what is regarded as a capital offence to be punished by the total destruction of your physical self.

The upsurge of witch hunting and burning in Venda this year has been accompanied by political turmoil.

In April Frank Ravele, the president of the "independent" homeland, was deposed in a military coup. Political anger was fuelled by the widely held view that senior cabinet ministers were involved in ritual murders — dismembering people and using their body parts as potent medicine to reinforce their status and power.

Superstitious practices have deep roots in Venda. The most powerful professional in the village is the witch-doctor, curing everything from hiccups to impotence with the bark from trees. He throws bones, kept in a bag made of aardvark skin, to divine the future and discover the cause of maladies.

However, the practice of burning witches is relatively new. The Reverend O'Brien Malindi, of the Far Northern Transvaal Council of Churches, says it spread to Venda late last year from the homelands to the south where it was particularly rampant in the mid-1980s.

In one individual case — in Lebowa in 1986 — 32 elderly women were burnt to death as witches. A University of the Witwatersrand researcher, Edwin Ritchkin, who investigated the deaths, identified the main perpetrators of witch hunts to be the unemployed, militant youth participating in "a revolt against a society that is no longer able to support them".

It is a pattern that has repeated itself in Venda. According to Magwedhza Mphaphuli, of the Council of Churches, "most of the killers were young people in remote villages using witchcraft to mobilise politically".

The witchcraft claims peaked in February, after the release from prison of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela. Youths believed that liberation had arrived and were driven to purify their communities of apartheid and witchcraft. They marched on police stations to disarm the security forces, a feat, says one policemen, they were "dissuaded" from — one gathers with a logic more compelling than reasoned argument.

Maxwell Mulaudzi, president of the Far Northern Transvaal Youth Congress, says that when Mandela was freed, the youth were more militant than ever. The witch hunts, he says, were led by people without political direction who wanted to do away with everything evil.

"There was a confusion between sell-outs, spies and witches," he says. "Certain individuals, themselves the victims of spies, advocated hunting witches."

However, says Malindi, they were merely fastening on to the superstitions that their parents and grand-parents had taught them, the belief that any death or unhappy event has a cause and that the culprit is to be found lurking within the community.

One member of the youth congress, himself a believer in witches, says a large part of the problem was that a lot of witch-doctors were not genuine and that, during the time of turmoil, few people went for the customary verification of alleged witches.

Opportunism crept in. "In one case, a headman called on the youth to form an organisation so he could hand them a list — he wanted to get rid of all witches in the community," says Mulaudzi. It was a golden age for anyone who wanted to settle scores.

There was also jealousy of successful individuals. "If you work hard and produce a lot, the people think you are employing zombies with supernatural powers to do your work," says Malindi.

Sophie Nemakhavhani, who had a large house filled with smart furniture she bought from the proceeds of her business as a fruit seller and from money earned by her migrant worker son, was labelled a witch.

"The people claimed that zombies built this house," she says, sitting next to the gutted house. The lynch mob attacked while she was sleeping and she had to flee with her grandchild.

Nemakhavhani spent six months living inside a police station. However, after reassurances from the government of Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana, she agreed to move back last month — though she is still too scared to show her face around the village.

The abiding problem is what to do with those who are too terrified to go home. William Ndlambane (71) has been living in a tent inside the grounds of the Dzanani police station since he was fingered as a witch in 1987.

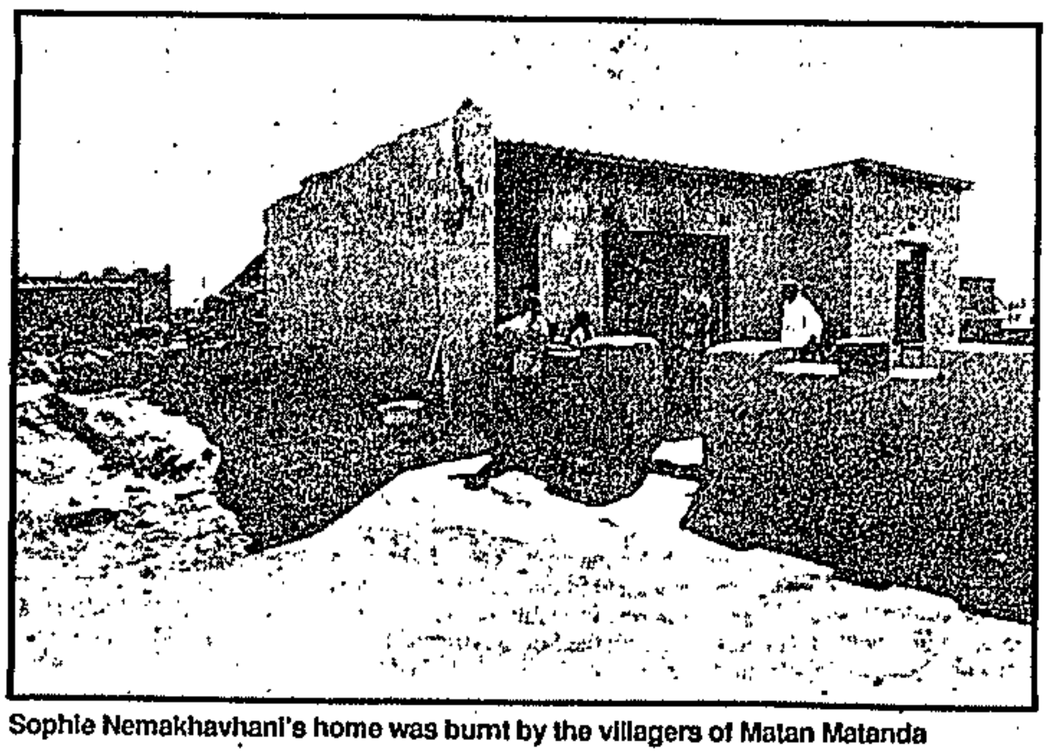
The children inside Thohoyandou police station have not attended school this year. Mphaphuli says the people are hungry and some children have taken to stealing from nearby shops to survive.

A proposal by the Venda government to set aside a village for the "witches" was rejected on the grounds that it would entrench their status as outcasts.

The other route is to educate the people against witchcraft. Mandela is to address a mass rally in Thohoyandou on November 11, where it is expected he will call on the youth to refrain from hunting witches.

The youth congress has been running education workshops. "Generally speaking, we are against people not knowing where to direct their anger," says Mulaudzi. "We are in favour of the scientific approach. Witchcraft is not empirical." He says that since the workshops there has been a marked decline in witchburnings.

But the youth congress might find they have an uphill battle, and not only because the belief in magic potions, witches and zombies is deeply entrenched. Malaudzi says the youth are being weaned from witchcraft by being taught the verities of dialectical materialism.



Sophie Nemakhavhani's home was burnt by the villagers of Matan Matanda

Venda students to pay higher fees

Sowetan 22/11/90

(113)

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

THE University of Venda is to increase student fees by 20 to 30 percent next year, a university spokesman announced this week.

Mr R N Kharidza said the 30 percent will be applicable to the 1991 hostel dwellers who will have to pay R3 430 a year instead of the present R2 640.

Tuition for Bachelor of Arts students, for example, will increase from R1 400 to R1 680, whereas that of a Bachelor of Science student is to increase from R1 700 to R2 040.

Registration for the 1991 academic year will require a first installment payment of R1 910 for an undergraduate hostel student and R1 010 for an undergraduate non-resident student.

For further information contact Mr F A Sinthumule, assistant registrar - finance at (015581) 21071 Ext 2350.

* Meanwhile, the Department of English at the University of Venda has responded to the several requests from students, to enroll for the honours English course, by introducing such a course as from the 1991 academic year.

Minimum

According to Dr B Forson, the acting head of the department, a minimum of 60 percent in the final BA English examination will be the entry requirement.

However, Forson said, candidates with a final examination mark of 55 to 59 percent, would be given a special entrance exam.

"Full-time students will have a one-year duration study, while part-time students will study the course for two years. It will be the first time that such an honours English course is introduced, and many applications are being processed," Forson said.

Blind success - Brian Mashile walks down a street in Alexandra township. Mashile has succeeded against overwhelming odds to become an attorney with one of South Africa's leading law firms. He grew up in a slum, lost both his parents when young, had to quit school to work and was assaulted and blinded at 18.

Minister accused of fraud

113

By MOSES MAMAILA

FORMER Venda Cabinet Minister, Headman TT Ramabulana frudulently borrowed R115 000 from the Venda Agricultural Corporation, the Taylor Commission of Inquiry into corruption heard in Thohoyandou yesterday.

The commission heard that Ramabulana applied for a loan saying he intended to purchase cattle from his brother, Mr TD Ramabulana, also a high ranking government official.

TD Ramabulana did not have enough cattle and TT Ramabulana gave him some of his own cattle which he later purported to have bought. He then used the money he obtained from Agrieven for his bottlestore.

Asked by the commission if he was aware that that was fraud, Agrieven's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Pieter Du Toit Oosthuizen said "at that stage no."

The commission also heard that former Justice Minister Mr AA Tshivhase, was paid a large amount of money after he purported he would sell livestock to the corporation.

The livestock was not delivered and the debt was converted to a loan.

Sowetan 23/11/90

Star 27/11/90 (113)

Back to the fold

Brigadier Ramushwana is a man in a hurry, intent on having a say in the constitutional negotiations to create a new South Africa, reports PATRICK LAURENCE.

VENDA'S military ruler, Gabriel Ramushwana, wants the nominally independent territory to be reincorporated into South Africa sooner rather than later.

Brigadier Ramushwana, who assumed power on April 5 after toppling Frank Ravele in a bloodless coup, believes that it is not necessary to hold a referendum on whether or not Venda should be re-united with South Africa.

He has no doubt that the vast majority of Venda's 500 000-plus people favour reincorporation and that a referendum will merely establish the obvious, and unnecessarily delay Venda's reintegration into South Africa.

But if South Africa insists on a referendum or an alternative form of popular vote to establish that Venda's people are willingly surrendering their "independence", Brigadier Ramushwana will not object, provided South Africa pays for it.

A physically big man, Brigadier Ramushwana says unequivocally: "Venda will be incorporated. It will be suicidal for Venda to go it alone."

The reason why he is anxious to move ahead as speedily as possible on reincorporation is simple: he wants Venda to have a seat, and thus a say, at the negotiating table where a constitution for a new, non-racial South Africa will be hammered out.

"If Venda is not incorporated before the negotiations, it will mean we will be accorded observer status only," he observes. "If we are reincorporated we will become South African citizens with the right to participate."

Brigadier Ramushwana, who served with the South African Police before being transferred to the newly formed Venda National Force after Venda became "independent" in 1977, expects to meet President de Klerk before the end of the year. He will raise the question of reincorporation.

"What we are going to suggest is that it obvious that Venda's people are interested in reincorporation. If (he) accepts that without insisting on a referendum, we would really appreciate that."

Assuming Brigadier Ramushwana succeeds in securing a place for Venda at the negotiating table, the pivotal question is whether it will align itself with or against the African National Congress or, to put it differently, with or against Mr de Klerk's National Party.

The short answer is that Brigadier Ramushwana is keeping his options open, although there are fears in ANC circles in Venda that his past history as a South African security policeman may predispose him towards Mr de Klerk.

The scepticism of ANC supporters is reflected in a headline in the pro-ANC publication, Bugle. It pointedly asks whether Brigadier Ramushwana is a Moses or a Judas.

Of Mr de Klerk, Brigadier Ramushwana says: "I am very much impressed by him. He is a man dedicated to meaningful change. He dared to create a new South Africa. I also appreciate his guts."

Define

Asked for his assessment of ANC leader Nelson Mandela, who visited Venda recently, Brigadier Ramushwana replies: "Ah well, he is a good old man. I would say he is an intelligent old man."

Invited to define his attitude towards the ANC, he states: "One can think of an alliance with any of the political parties (at the negotiating table) ... It could be the ANC. It could be the PAC. It could be the National Party ... I think everything will depend on the negotiations."

Inhaling from his cigarette, he adds: "There is a general feeling among blacks that we should go for black organisations. But there are so many black organisations."

The observation that Mr Mandela is trying to unite black organisations into a common front elicits a quick response: "But President de Klerk is doing the same."

Brigadier Ramushwana has been described by his detractors as a "South African Defence Force agent". He does not falter when it is put to him.

"I am a professional soldier. The only place where I could be trained was in South Africa. Even (Transkei's Major-General Bantu) Holomisa was trained in South Africa. We were all trained in South Africa ... I am not an agent of South Africa's."

Brigadier Ramushwana's political foes point out that he served as a security policeman in South Africa, claiming that he even "infiltrated" the ANC as a police spy.

He admits to service in the SAP, saying: "I served in the SAP security branch for several years. I mean that was also part of my calling."

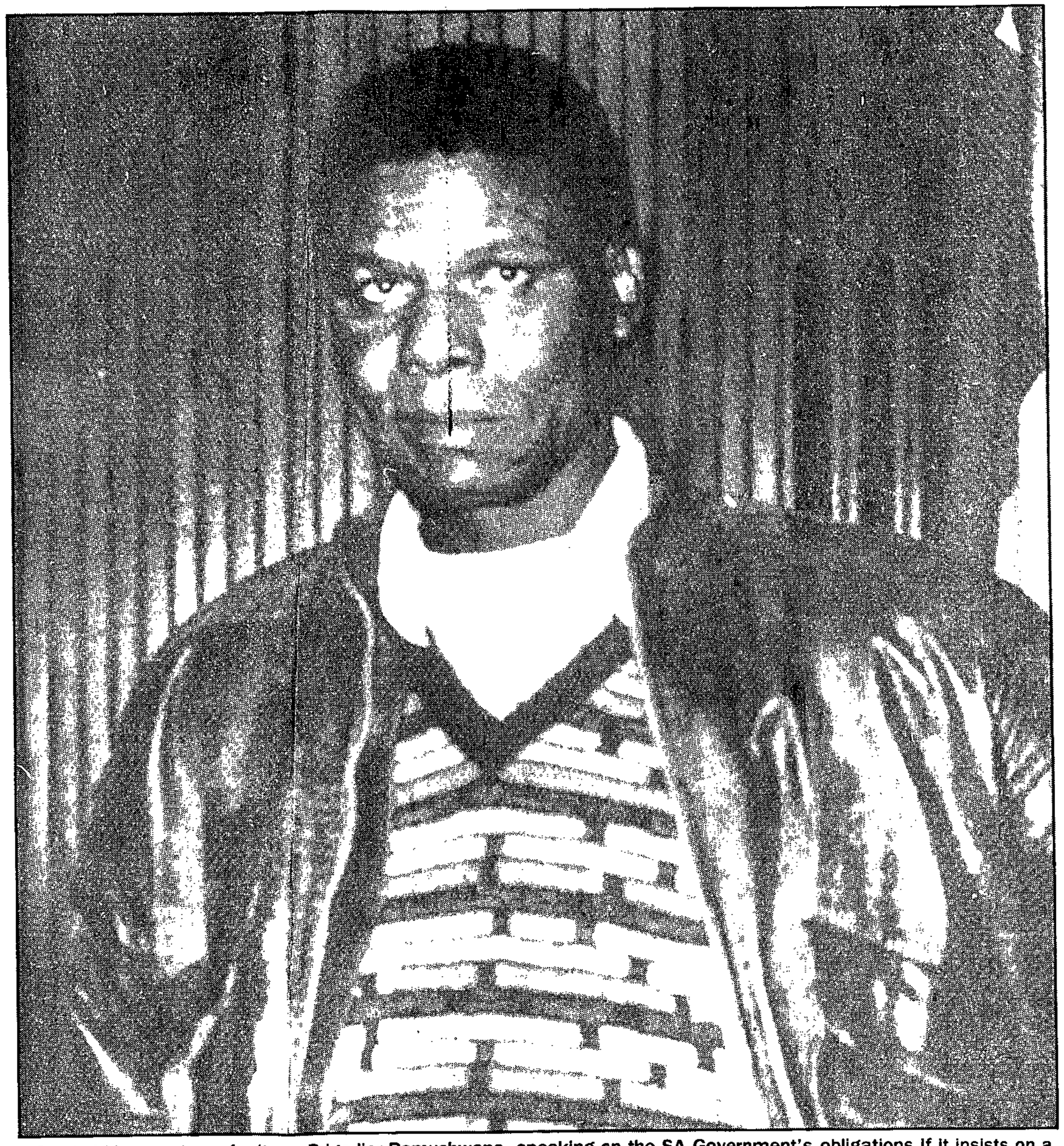
He denies, however, that he insinuated himself into ANC ranks. "It is unfounded. If these people can give facts to substantiate their allegations I would really appreciate it. They are unfounded. Their aim is to discredit me."

Brigadier Ramushwana, aged 49, describes himself as a "servant of the people", noting: "I am paid from public funds." He lives in the same modest house that he occupied before the coup, leaving the grandiose mansion built by Venda's founding president, Patrick Mphephu, as a sign of greed and folly.

The ANC branch chairman in Sibasa, Magwendzha Nphaphuli, does not dispute Brigadier Ramushwana's contention that public opinion is strongly in favour of reincorporation. But he warns that ANC cadres will protest vigorously against any attempt by Venda to secure a seat at the negotiating table.

Venda's people should be represented by the participating parties, he says. Most of them will be happy to be represented by the ANC. Those that are not are free, however, to join rival political organisations and entrust their grievances and aspirations to them.

But, Mr Nphaphuli adds, the political entity Venda can no more be represented at the negotiating table than, say, the Transvaal. □



South Africa must pay for it . . . Brigadier Ramushwana, speaking on the SA Government's obligations if it insists on a referendum for Venda.

Patrick Laurence finds a pattern to the recent coups in the independent homelands

Star 30/11/90 (113)

The godfathers of power

AN underlying thread runs through the rash of coups and attempted coups which have racked South Africa's four nominally independent tribal "homelands" over the past eight years and which erupted bloodily in Transkei last week.

The neutrality of the political godfathers in Pretoria who created the quartet of quasi-states — Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei — has been indispensable to the success of the coups.

It does not follow that Pretoria's neutrality has been enough on its own to guarantee success for the conspirators. It can, however, be asserted confidently that coups have failed where they have been actively opposed by the godfathers.

One need only think of the 1988 coup attempt in Bophuthatswana: there rebel soldiers led by Rocky Malebane-Metsing captured President Lucas Mangope. With little or no resistance from the bulk of his supposedly loyal troops and police, Mr Mangope's fate seemed sealed until South Africa sent a crack force of commandos to restore him to power.

One further generalisation can be made: the ousting of three regimes — those of the Matanzima brothers in Transkei in September 1987, President-for-Life Lennox Sebe in Ciskei in March 1990, and President Frank Ravele in Venda a month later — was welcomed, if discreetly, in Pretoria.

There is, furthermore, evidence that Pretoria had a direct hand in the overthrow of Mr Ravele.

It is instructive to look a bit more closely at events in each of the putatively independent states. They point to the presence of — and, in Venda's case, manipulation by — the godfathers.

In Transkei the scene was set for the toppling of Prime Minister George Matanzima by two commissions of inquiry into corruption in the quasi-state, the Van Reenen and Alexander commissions.

On his own admission, South Africa's Foreign Minister Pik Botha persuaded the Transkei government to appoint the Van Reenen Commission. He later succeeded in getting a second commission, the Alexander Commission, appointed, and made arrangements for it to be paid for by the South African Government.

The Van Reenen Commission heard evidence that Mr Matanzima — now serving a jail sentence for corruption — accepted R1 million from a South African building company, Koen Construction, in return for granting them a R30 million housing contract.

The Alexander Commission established that Mr Matanzima was paid R2 million as a bribe to grant exclusive gambling rights to Sun International, the multimillion-rand hotel and casino company which used to be headed by South African financier Sol Kerzner.

These disclosures enabled Major-General Bantu Holomisa, then chief of staff of the Transkei Defence Force, to strike. In two bloodless coups, he first forced Mr Matanzima's resignation and then that of his successor, Stella Sigcau, when it transpired she had accepted R50 000 from the hapless Chief Matanzima.

The next successful coup was that carried out in Ciskei by Brigadier Oupa Gqozo. He overthrew the venal regime of Mr Sebe on March 4 while Mr Sebe was on one of his numerous overseas trips.

It was obvious to observers, and one assumes to Pretoria's ubiquitous intelligence agents, that Mr Sebe was losing control of Ciskei in the wake of the release from jail of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

Pretoria's tacit approval of the Ciskei coup was signalled by Mr Botha's response that South Africa would not intervene to restore Mr Sebe to power. South African troops were later sent to Ciskei, but their role was to help Brigadier Gqozo's soldiers control an outburst of rioting in the wake of the coup, not to prop up the corrupt Sebe regime.

A similar pattern of escalating popular resistance preceded the coup in Venda in April. In Venda, however, Pretoria's role was more direct.

Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, who overthrew Mr Ravele, was on a course with the South African Defence Force in the turbulent days immediately before the coup.

One is faced with two interpretations of the coup: the preposterous notion that Brigadier Ramushwana secretly plotted the overthrow of the Venda government — which was recognised by South Africa — in between classes; or that he was summoned to Pretoria to plan a pre-emptive coup to forestall a popular pro-ANC uprising against Mr Ravele.

Well-placed observers in Venda laughingly dismiss the notion that Brigadier Ramushwana planned the coup on his own. They have no doubt he was put in power by Pretoria's godfathers.

Standing back and looking at the military rulers in power in Transkei, Ciskei and Venda, one is struck by two major similarities between them:

- All three were trained as soldiers in South Africa, where they won the respect of their white mentors (Brigadier Gqozo was awarded South Africa's Order of Good Hope).
- All three favour the reincorporation of their territories into South Africa, a development no longer opposed and perhaps even encouraged by the De Klerk administration as a manoeuvre to strengthen its hand against the ANC at the negotiating table.

But there are crucial differences, too. General Holomisa has developed an agenda of his own, moving closer to the ANC and giving ANC chief of staff Chris Hani a base in Transkei and access to a government house in the complex of Cabinet Ministers's residences.

Against that, Brigadiers Gqozo and Ramushwana have maintained a more judicious distance from the ANC, spoken warmly of President de Klerk and talked about a possible alliance with the National Party at the negotiating table.

Where post-coup Ciskei and Venda have been relatively stable, Transkei has been rocked by a series of abortive coups. The latest and bloodiest was crushed by Transkei soldiers loyal to General Holomisa on November 22.

General Holomisa has accused South Africa of complicity in the coups. Mr Botha has vehemently repudiated the accusations. But it is an open secret that South Africa is now threatening to cut off financial aid to Transkei in an attempt to force it to "return to civilian rule" or, more crudely, dump General Holomisa.

A similar strategy was used to topple former Lesotho Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan in 1986. The late Chief Jonathan, like General Holomisa, began his political career as an ally of South Africa's rulers but ended his political days as a pro-ANC man. □

CAPE TIMES 5/12/90

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Sjambok suspects rescued from mob

THOHOYANDOU. — Venda police yesterday rescued two men — suspected of being involved in last week's sjambok attack on Sunday school children in Louis Trichardt — from an angry crowd of more than 200.

The attack by a group of khaki-clad whites has stirred up racial hostility in the area.

The crowd, shouting slogans denouncing racism, escorted the two men from shops in the Venda capital and police whisked them away as mass anger grew.

A Venda government spokesman said police removed a Mr K de Wet and a Mr De Nyssen from Wanda Furnishers and Style and Value Furnishers after trouble started. They had not been attacked.

The crowd followed them to the police station and left after police assured them they would investigate the matter.

An employee at Wanda Furnishers said workers had vowed to embark on a sit-in if Mr De Wet remained as the shop's accounting manager after he "assaulted our innocent kids". — Sapa

Mass action over assault on children

Sowetan 6/12/90

113

WHITE rightwingers employed in Venda are facing mass demonstrations and expulsions following the assault in Louis Trichardt of children relaxing in a park two weeks ago.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

In the first physical show of anger in the area, more than 300 youths and workers converged on two shops on Tuesday to demand that whites said to have participated in the assault be brought to them for a revenge assault.

Yesterday, a crowd of more than 100 gathered at Captain Cool restaurant to demand that two whites should go.

The two left the premises hurriedly.

The crowd then marched to Vhavenda Bricks, where they also demanded that a rightwinger who was allegedly involved in the assaults on children should also go.

It also emerged yesterday that many senior Conservative Party members employed in Venda, including Louis Trichardt mayor Mr Louis Holtzhaussen, have taken hasty leaves to avoid the growing feeling of revulsion caused by both the beatings and the CP's apparent support for the alleged perpetrators.

Holtzhaussen was not available yesterday.

Officials at Agrieven refused to comment on his absence and that of chief executive officer Mr Pieter Oosthuisen, also said to be a CP member.

A reliable source said while Oosthuisen had applied for leave late last week, Holtzhaussen had "just disappeared".

The simmering anger over the assaults came to the boil when two whites employed by Wanda Furnishers and Style and Value, Mr Korea de Wet and Mr Barend Jordaan respectively, went missing after police announced the arrests of 12 rightwingers for the assaults.

Jordaan appeared in court on Monday with eight others.

Police announced that three other men also arrested in connnection with the matter had been released.

When both men reappeared at their work places on Tuesday angry people gathered at the two shops. They were immediately escorted out of Venda.

Venda to have less services

Sowetan 7/12/90

(113)

THE ruling military junta in Venda has approved plans to rationalise the bantustan's civil service, reducing the number of state departments from 23 to 16.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

A statement released by the Press liaison officer Colonel Brian du Toit, stated that the move would,however, not lead to any dismissals or reduction in existing salaries.

The reduction of departments was recommended by a task force appointed soon after the April 5 coup which brought Brigadier Gabriel Mutheiwana Ramushwana to power.

The rationalisation comes into effect on April 1 this year and will be completed after 18 months.

Du Toit said in the statement that offices and personnel would be reshuffled to ensure "optimum utilisation of scarce and expensive manpower and the establishment of an effective and streamlined civil service".

Du Toit was not available for comment yesterday on what would happen to the seven senior bureaucrats who would now loose their postings.

The remaining departments are: Office of the Chairman of the Council for National Unity, Health and Welfare, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Works, Justice, Finance and Economic Affairs, Posts and Communication and Broadcasting, Foreign Affairs and Information, Education and Culture, Law and Order and Traffic, defence Force, Land Tenure and Local government, Commission for Organisation, Auditor General, National Intelligence, Internal Affairs and Manpower.

A separate parastatal, to be known as Tourism and Parks Board, is to be established as a division under Ramushwana's department.

Attack on AWB: singer charged

Star 7/12/90

By Willy Mashau

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THOHOYANDOU — Charges have been laid against Gospel music singer Thivhavhomi Libzhade (28), who Venda police claim led an angry mob this week against two AWB members who had allegedly taken part in the recent attack on Sunday-school children in Louis Trichardt.

He appeared before a Thohoyandou magistrate yesterday charged with incitement, defeating the ends of justice, malicious damage to property and crimen injuria.

According to Venda police, Mr Libzhade had incited a mob of about 200 people in the Thohoyandou business centre and demanded that Korea de Wet of Wanda Furnishers and Barend Jordaan of Style and Value Furnishers be handed over to them.

At Wanda Furnishers, where the situation was critical, police were called, and according to the charge sheet, Mr Libzhade obstructed them from protecting Mr de Wet from the mob.

After Mr de Wet was rescued, Mr Libzhade allegedly insulted the police.

The case has been referred to the Venda Attorney-General. Mr Libzhade will appear in court on February

Minimum fees laid down for Venda students

THE University of Venda has announced that the University Council has stipulated that minimum amounts will be required as payment by students on the day of registration for the 1991 academic year.

A spokesman, Mr R N Kharidzha, said bursars must submit an official letter of undertaking to pay relevant fees. In addition, he said, all outstanding amounts owed for previous academic years must be paid. Sowetan 21/12/90

"In effect, these amounts represent 40 percent of the fees payable on registration, 20 percent to be paid by the end of April, 20 percent at the end of June and the complete balance at the end of August. (113)

"This method of payment will be implemented without exceptions," he said.

The following are the amounts: registration fee (R120), SRC levy (R40), tuition fees (R850) and hostel fees (R900).

Venda moves against intimidators

ARGUS 24/12/90 113

The Argus Correspondent

THOHOYANDOU. — The Venda government has passed a proclamation prohibiting intimidation.

This follows two incidents in which people forced three whites out of their offices and escorted them to their homes in Louis Trichardt this month.

Two of the three have appeared in court for their alleged participation in an attack on black Sunday school children at Louis Trichardt in November.

They are Mr Corrie de Wet and Mr Barend Jordaan who have since been suspended by their employer pending the outcome of their trial.

ACCUSED

The third man was Mr J M Steyn, assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Venda Development Corporation (VDC). VDC staff had accused him of dismissing seven personnel illegally, including the Chief Executive Officer, Mr F I T Ndiitwani.

The proclamation is to be known as the "Intimidation Proclamation of 1990".

It prohibits the killing, assault, injury or causing of damage with the aim of compelling or inducing anybody "to do or to abstain from doing any act or to assume or to abandon a particular standpoint" and carries a fine of up to R20 000, a jail sentence of 10 years or both.

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Row looms as envoy is recalled

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Sowetan 7/1/91.

A ROW that could claim the political head of Venda's foreign affairs minister has erupted following the unceremonious recall of the bantustan's ambassador from South Africa.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

High-placed sources said ambassador Mr David Nemauluma was summoned back to Venda on New Year's Eve and informed he was being replaced by Mr Lucas Tshivhase, a former information attache.

Nemauluma left Pretoria in haste, without even going through the diplomatic protocol of bidding his farewell to the host president.

He was told to report to the Department of Economic Affairs on January 2.

But when he got there, the former school inspector was told the department was unaware of his transfer and could not help.

The source said officials in the department of economic affairs had referred Nemauluma to the foreign affairs section whose director, Mr ET Moeti, had signed the letter.

Neither Moeti nor the minister of foreign affairs, Headman Gilbert Ligege were available for comment.

Moeti went to military supremo, Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, who is alleged to have told him he was not aware of the transfer.

A meeting of all top officials of the government was called where the matter was discussed with Ramushwana, the source said.

At this meeting allegations were made that Nemauluma was being transferred because he was appointed by former president Mr Frank Ravele.

It was also alleged that Tshivhase, who supported Ligege's position in a major Tshivhase chieftancy wrangle, was also being appointed because of his relationship with the present minister.

Library for Venda

113

S/Times 13/11/91

STOCKS Construction is building an R11-million library at Venda University.

Managing director Tom Hendry says scorching temperatures and heavy downpours have not hampered progress and the building is on schedule.

Workers sued for R2m

(113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

FOURTEEN employees of the Venda Development Corporation (VDC) face a combined claim of R2,1-million from a garage owner and two senior members of the corporation.

The fourteen received letters of demand last week, alleging that they were part of a group of VDC employees that forcibly evicted and degraded the assistant chief executive officer, Mr J M L Steyn.

They are also alleged to have issued and published a document containing defamatory remarks about the chief executive officer, Mr T M Dama, and Louis Trichardt garage owner, Mr P Thompson.

The three men are claiming R50 000 individually from each of the workers.

The workers have been given up to Monday to settle the claim or face a court action, according to the letters.

A spokesman for the workers said they would defend the action. He said their committee would meet with the Board of Directors of the VDC today to discuss workers' grievances.

Sowetan 23/1/91

Three prisoners to hang in Venda

(113)

By Shareen Singh Star 30/1/91

Three prisoners are to be hanged in Venda tomorrow and a fourth will be executed next week.

In a statement yesterday, Lawyers for Human Rights said a petition for leave to appeal had apparently been dismissed by the Appellate Division in Bloemfontein in December 1989.

It is understood that no notice of execution was given to counsel for the prisoners. LHR learnt of the pending executions by chance.

Venda had not modified its death penalty legislation in line with the changes in South Africa's statutes which, among other things, allowed for an automatic right of appeal.

The LHR found it "remarkable" that executions were taking place in Venda in such a fluid political climate.

LHR called for the executions to be halted.

The names of the four prisoners to be hanged are: David Matodzi Rembuluwani, John Chauke, Nkhumelehi Malaudzi and Ralson Mulaudzi.

Four to hang in Venda

(113)

Sowetan 31/1/91.

FOUR prisoners on Death Row in Venda are to be executed within the next five days.

Three are scheduled to be executed today and the fourth next Tuesday.

The organisation Lawyers for Human Rights said in a statement a petition to appeal against the death sentences was dismissed in 1989 by the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein.

LHR said unlike most of South Africa, Venda had not modified its death penalty legislation to allow an automatic right of appeal for prisoners sentenced to death.

LHR urged Brigadier Ramushwana, Venda's military ruler, to immediately halt the executions to allow the condemned men a chance to appeal.

It also called upon Ramushwana to declare a moratorium on executions until the present death penalty laws were modified.

4 saved from gallows in Venda

(113)

By Esmaré van der Merwe and Guy Jepson Star 31/1/91

All four prisoners sentenced to death in Venda and due to hang this week were granted stays of execution yesterday.

Three of the prisoners had their death penalties commuted to life imprisonment yesterday afternoon and the fourth, John Tskani Chauke, was granted a stay of execution "very late last night," said Colonel Braam du Toit, publicity secretary for Venda's military ruler, Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana.

Chauke was scheduled to hang at 7 am today.

Colonel du Toit told The Star that Brigadier Ramushwana was reviewing the cases.

Lawyers for Human Rights, the ANC, Amnesty International, the South African Council of Churches and foreign embassies had launched a concerted campaign to save Chauke.

Yesterday afternoon it was announced the death penalties on David Matodzi Rembuluwani, Ralson Mulaudzi and Nkhumelesi Mulaudzi had been commuted to life imprisonment.

Shortly afterwards, LHR spokesman Paula McBride announced that their advocate's efforts to persuade acting Chief Justice J C van der Walt in Thohoyandou to postpone the execution of Chauke had failed.

Before the reprieves were granted, all four men were due to be executed following the dismissal of their petition for leave to appeal by the Appelate Division in Bloemfontein in December 1989.

LHR representative Colleen Brady said the Venda Attorney-General had told the organisation's legal representatives that Chauke had been scheduled to be hanged today.

She said the men had been convicted of murder, but could not provide details.

"We only learnt about the case per chance and only know bits and pieces."

South Africa's statute was modified in July last year to incorporate an automatic right to appeal, and a moratorium on executions was declared.

However, this appears not to be binding on the homelands.

Earlier, the LHR had expressed disquiet over the pending executions "in a situation as politically fluid as the one in Venda".

Venda Death Row four reprieved

Sowetan 113
1/2/91.

VENDA'S military ruler Brig Gabriel Ramushwana yesterday granted a last-minute stay of execution to four men condemned to death by the Venda Supreme court.

The decision followed a petition submitted by advocate Sarel Renke, on behalf of Lawyers for Human Rights.

The petition stated that Venda had not modified its death penalty legislation in line with changes to section 277 of the South African Criminal Procedure Act.

The Act therefore gave the court discretion regarding the imposition of the death sentence.

Ramushwana ordered a review of the legal position regarding the death sentence in Venda, and apparently asked for all documents relating to the four men to be submitted to him for reconsideration.

The death sentence was stayed and the case will now be reviewed at a later stage.

Spokesman for Lawyers for Human Rights Colin Brandy said he was relieved that Ramushwana had reconsidered his earlier decision on the case.

He added that his organisation remained committed to the abolition of capital punishment.

"It does not fulfill the principles of a new South Africa," he said.

The accused, who were supposed to be executed yesterday, are David Rembuluwani, Tshuvhangwaho Mulaudi, John Chauke and Nkumeleni Mulaudi. - *Sapa*

Dutch doctors driven out of black hospital

S/Times 3/2/91 (113)

POLITICAL pressure has forced 10 Dutch doctors to abandon a rural hospital in Venda. By April 1, with no doctors to man the 600-bed Siloam Hospital, 200 000 residents will have to travel more than 50km for health care.

The doctors want to stay, and most of Siloam's residents would like things to continue as they have since the hospital opened 50 years ago. But the doctors have decided to quit after a year-long campaign of harassment by a politically inspired group of hospital workers who call themselves the Action Group. They say they have the backing of the ANC.

At least eight of the Dutch doctors have resigned and signed contracts at other rural hospitals in South Africa and in the homelands. The other two may return to Holland.

By CHARMAIN NAIDOO

Siloam Hospital staff who have aligned themselves with the Action Group refuse to work, leaving patient care to a few dedicated nurses.

Since February last year, several lists of grievances have been put to superintendent Evert Helms — a Dutch doctor who joined the hospital as a medical missionary 30 years ago.

The 61-year-old medical officer has told Venda Health Services, who administer the hospital, that he would retire — four years early — on April 1.

"Doctors have lived through a year of extreme stress and pressure.

Threats

"Nursing staff have refused to dispense prescriptions or instructions given by doctors," said Dr Helms.

The doctors have also been threatened. An anonymous caller to a woman doctor said her children would die.

Maryke Boele and her dentist husband, Leo Meyndert, have been at Siloam for four years. Both their daughters were born there.

Dr Boele has lost 7kg in the last three months through stress.

Slogans have been scrawled on chairs in the doctors' tearoom, some accusing them of practising apartheid, others warning them that they would die.

Patients have been told that the doctors are planning to kill them.

In August last year, Dr Helms took long leave in Holland.

Grievances

While there he heard that the Action Group had drawn up a list of 20 grievances. These included a demand that he should not to return to Siloam. Another said all Dutch doctors should leave as soon as their contracts had been fulfilled.

More telling was the Action Group's stipulation that no other Dutch doctors were to be appointed at the hospital.

Hostilities reached a peak in October last year when two Dutch doctors, who had just completed their studies in Holland, arrived at Siloam Hospital.

"The arrival of Roland Zeilstra and his wife Marja Versteeg — both dedicated, hard-working doctors — set off the Action Group," said Dr Helms.

"They called for a strike which lasted three weeks and which forced us to close all the wards except casualty and maternity.

"I asked why the doctors were unwanted and the response was that they were not qualified. I showed the Action Group leaders their qualifications.

"I was then told that they had been appointed without consultation with the Action Group."

This week the young couple left Siloam for a new posting at a KwaZulu hospital.

Only Dr Helms, Dr Gert Maritz and Dr Hans Timmer will be left at Siloam this week.

"I have no doubt that the hospital will close down," said Dr Helms.

UNWANTED ... Dr Evert Helms who has been forced to take early retirement after having tended the sick at Siloam Hospital for the past 30 years

HARASSED ... Dr Maryke Boele, who has lost 7kg through stress. She was warned that her children would be killed

Pictures: JAMES SOULLIER

"We are slowly emptying the wards and are trying to improve the ambulance service so that patients can get to neighbouring hospitals.

"I pray that the 13 health clinics we opened around here will keep operating."

Suffering

In an area where being denounced as a witch means instant death, people willing to talk about the crisis are not eager to be named.

A nursing sisters who refused to "work-to-rule" said: "I am ashamed of my people.

"It is going to be very difficult without the doctors. My people are suffering, and it will get worse when the hospital closes down."

● All attempts to speak to the leaders of the Action Group were rebuffed, and ANC Northern Transvaal spokesman Peter Mayibuye was unavailable for comment.

Venda party to try again

Sowetan 7/4/91

(113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Venda National Party, ousted from power last April in a bloodless coup, is on the comeback trail.

Following a meeting of senior party members and former MP's in Louis Trichardt last Thursday, VNP chairman Mr AR Tshivhase submitted a memorandum to the military junta on Monday.

The memo demands that an election be held, party secretary Mr Thompson Muvhango confirmed yesterday.

Election

Muvhango would not give details but said it contained "views of the party on how the party feels things should be run in Venda".

But reliable sources said the meeting in Louis Trichardt had demanded that an election be held and government be returned to civilian rule.

"Our feeling is that when Venda goes into negotiations about a new South Africa we should be represented by people elected by the inhabitants of Venda. We feel that the army is not a democratic structure to represent the people," a source said.

Venda rulers were corrupt inquiry finds

(113)

Sowetan 8/2/91

THE Taylor Commission of Inquiry, set up to look into alleged corruption in Venda, has published its first report on the allocation, leasing and donation of state-owned funds.

The commission was set up to look into alleged nepotism, corruption and maladministration in the former government of Mr Frank Ravele.

It has recommended that all lease contracts be referred to the State Attorney for cancellation and that leasees be given not more than six months to vacate state-owned farms.

The outstanding total amount on lease rentals will be submitted to the State Attorney for the recovery of the money.

SOWETAN Correspondent

All farms allegedly donated to the late Chief Patrick Mphephu should be retained by and remain the property of the state.

Employees at farms will remain and be regarded as government workers under the Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Records

Strict supervision must be exercised in the Department of Urban Affairs and Land Tenure to ensure that records concerning lease contracts and lease rentals are up to date and properly maintained.

All the director-generals who headed the department and failed to give proper and lawful advice to their ministers and the two former presidents will be dealt with in terms of the Public Service Act for contravening certain provisions of sections of the Act.

The ruling Military Council of National Unity has decided to adopt most of the commission's recommendations.

Meanwhile, the former director-general of statistics, who was last month transferred to health and welfare with a change in rank to deputy director-general, Mr Jeffrey Mulaudzi, has been suspended for unknown reasons.

It has been stated, however, that the suspension has nothing to do with the Taylor Commission in that Mulaudzi was once a director-general for urban affairs and land tenure.

NEWS

Venda doctors booted out

Star 9/2/91

Accusations of racism mean that 200 000 may be without health care

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JOVIAL RANTAO

IN VENDA, politics have superceded a need for health care after a pressure group accused 12 Dutch doctors of racism and told them to go — leaving some 200 000 Nzhelele villagers without medical care.

The 12 doctors, who were trained in Holland, have worked at Siloam Hospital for periods varying from four to 30 years. They said they would be leaving in the next few weeks.

Venda government officials were this week trying to resolve the looming health crisis.

The Siloam Hospital Workers' Representative Committee (SHWRC), which has fought for workers' rights in Venda's three hospitals, has accused the doctors of practising apartheid and ordered them to leave.

And now, Nzhelele villagers are faced with the prospects of no medical care as the hospital might have to close 450 of its 600 beds.

When Saturday Star visited the hospital this week, a handful of nurses assisted the doctors. SHWRC had called on nurses to stop working with the doctors.

While the SHWRC have demanded the resignation of the Dutch doctors, they have not provided the hospital with alternative medical staff.

Dr Evert Helms, Siloam hospital's superintendent, who came to the hospital 30 years ago, was this week locked in meetings with the Venda health authorities in an effort to find a solution.

He has also met organisers of the Save Public Health Services Campaign, a group of concerned residents who want to persuade the doctors to stay.

But one thing is certain, the doctors are leaving the hospital — much against their will. Most have been offered posts in South Africa and other homelands while two are contemplating returning to Holland.

In an interview at the hospital, Dr Helms (61) said doctors have been through the worst time of their life in the past year as a result of the campaign waged against them.

"Nursing staff have refused to work with doctors. The doctors have been threatened either by telephone or with graffiti written on chairs in the doctors' rooms," Dr Helms said, adding that he would be taking an early retirement on April 1.

Dr Helms said most of the wards in the hospital, which he transformed from a rural missionary hospital to the best in Venda, would be closed. " About 450 beds will be closed. Only the out-patient, maternity and ambulance departments will remain operational," he said.

The bulk of patients will be referred to either the Donald Fraser or the Tshilidzini Hospital, he said.

In interviews the Dutch doctors said much as they were willing to stay, they would not do so under the present circumstances.

"We are no longer the dedicated doctors who came here from far to help, we are now whites practising apartheid," said Dr Baco Heijmans before rushing off to theatre to peform an emergency operation.

Dr Heijmans has been offered a post at a hospital in South Africa.

Dr Leo Meynderd, a dentist, said he and his wife, Marike Boele, would head back to Holland.

David Nyambeni, a spokesman for the SHWRC emphatically denied that his organisation had told the Dutch doctors to go.

He said SHWRC objected to the way the Dutch doctors were appointed and their efficiency once on the job.

"Doctors' posts have not been advertised and the workers felt that local doctors who might have a desire to work at Siloam would not be able to. We also have grievances from nurses about inefficiency shown by some of the doctors.

"Many cases of inefficiency don't involve professional mistakes, there is also an element of ignorance. Doctors have not been expelled, I think they might be pledging solidarity with their colleagues who were rejected by the workers," he said.

Mr Nyambeni explained the committee had objected to the appointment of Dr Roland Zeilstra and his wife Marja Versteeg because their appointment was a breach of agreement that no doctors would be appointed without the posts being advertised.

He said SHWRC, which has 450 members, was established in January last year, at the request of "oppressed workers". The committee had the blessing of Mrs D Mphephu, the then Minister of Health.

Asked whether the committee was not concerned about who would take over the medical care of Nzhelele villagers, Mr Nyambeni replied: "We don't regard that (provision of medical services) as our responsibility. That is the duty of the government."

Dr John McCutcheon, director-general of Health and Welfare Service in Venda, said the government was working round the clock to find a solution.

Deposed Venda party calls for new poll

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE deposed Venda National Party has called for the immediate dismantling of the ruling military appointed Council of National Unity and the handing back of power. 113

In a 14-page memorandum handed to military supremo, Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, last Monday, the VNP said military rule made Venda seem like "a big private farm where the strongest labourer orders others around".

The memo, handed in by party chairman Mr Richard A Tshivhase, asserts that Ramushwana had said at the time of the takeover that he had no political ambition and that he would return to the barracks as soon as the situation had stabilised.

Sowetan 15/2/91

Strange

"Consequently, we find it very strange that you would like to be seen as 'leader and representative for Venda' at the negotiating table.

" With all due respect, Brigadier, you have absolutely no mandate to speak on behalf of the Venda people on what they would like at the negotiating table.

The VNP stated that it was the only party that had won an election in Venda, and challenged Ramushwana to form his own if he wanted to continue as a leader.

Election

Calling for a general election, if abdication was not acceptable, the VNP said the linkage of military rule to commissions investigating alleged corruption was a "very, very weak excuse" to extend "military control over our nation for longer than necessary".

It called for the restoration of parliament, and the creation of an interim government which would be headed by a military ruler but composed of the parliamentarians.

Unavoidable

Chief government spokesman, Colonel Brian du Toit, said Ramushwana was not available for comment.

The memo was signed by 54 former MPs and six other people. Among those who signed are former cabinet minister Professor MER Mathivha, Mrs Doris Mphephu, Mr ERB Nesengani and Messrs TT Ramabulana and GM Ramabulana.

Deposed president Headman Frank Ravele is not among the signatories.

Will the real Venda caretaker stand up?

113

Sowetan 18/2/91.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

HAS Brigadier Ramushwana, Venda's military ruler, set himself targets and rules that are proving too much for him?

Or is it just that questions are being asked in Venda following Ramushwana's "temporary" move into the R1 million palace that used to house the corrupt despots that he overthrew?

Immediately after the April 5 coup last year, Ramushwana told the world that he would not move into the palace built by the late Chief Patrick Mphephu and later used by deposed president Frank Ravele.

Live

Ramushwana said at the time that he would live in his own house and drive his own cars as he was only a caretaker who would go back to the barracks as soon as he had accomplished his mission and had stabilised the territory in preparation for "the new South Africa".

While Ramushwana's Cabinet colleagues moved into the ministerial houses, the palace stood empty with no one to guard it.

RAMUSHWANA

But things appear to have changed now.

Ramushwana has over the past few weeks been seen driving from the palace each morning. Questions are now being raised about his vow.

Colonel Brian du Toit, the chief government spokesman, explained: "Brigadier Ramushwana is on Cabinet leave at the moment and has moved into the guest house for a few weeks.

"But it is a temporary move and he will be going back to his own house."

But as one observer said, why move into a government house when you go on leave? The government house is not a hotel, the man said.

Difficult

Ramushwana, who was always within reach of newsmen after the coup, is a difficult man to get these days.

His earnings have since jumped to R158 000 a year.

After the coup Ramushwana was simply called the chairman of the Council for National Unity.

Now he is known officially as the Right Honourable Chairman of the Council for National Unity.

When he took over the reins of government as a colonel, Ramushwana declared a moratorium on all promotions. But he is now a brigadier.

The trappings of power, according to observers, have made many a soldier who took over governments in many parts of the world fail to live up to the lofty ideals that invariably form the basis of the first radio broadcast that announces the takeover.

Venda's Gilbert Bakani dies

Sowetan 22/2/91

113

By IKE MOTSAPI

THE leader of the opposition in the Venda government, Mr Gilbert Bakani, is dead.

Bakani, who nearly unseated president of Venda, Chief Patrick Mphephu, during the general elections in 1984, died at the Baragwanath Hospital.

Bakani, leader of the Venda Independence Party (VIP), had been ill for the past seven years.

He was known for his opposition to Venda gaining independence from South Africa.

Bakani entered politics in 1978 and, in 1982 was appointed leader of the VIP after the death of its leader, Baldwin Mudau.

In 1984 he worked hard, organising and restructuring the opposition's machinery in preparation for an "assault" on the ruling Venda National Party during elections.

His party only managed to regain four seats during the elections. He said he had lost

Mr GABRIEL BAKANI

because of suddenly becoming ill.

When the present Venda ruler Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana took over power in the homeland, Bakani was appointed to be a member of a the Taylor Commission of Inquiry as its secretary.

Bakani will be buried this Saturday at his home town of Mulima.

Court rules against chief

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By MATHATHA TSEDU

A CEREMONY to instal Chief Kennedy Tshivhase at Mukumbani, Venda, tomorrow was yesterday prohibited by the Venda Supreme Court.

In an unopposed motion brought by an acting chief, Mr John Shavhani Tshivhase, the acting chief justice, Mr T van Reenen, ordered that Kennedy, the Venda Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Headman GM Ligege, the acting paramount chief, Mrs Phophi Mphephu, and military leader Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana should not hold any installation ceremony.

The order also stipulates that the four should not hold "any ceremony which purports to lend credence to the contention that first respondent (Kennedy) is the lawfully appointed chief of the Tshivhase tribe or the heir to such chieftainship". Sowetan 22/2/91

Kennedy's attorney Mr Mutshutshu Mamatho said in a letter that his client would not oppose the application as they did not intend to hold a ceremony.

The interdict will hold until March 21 when a final order will be made.

Dutch doctors in 'white soldiarity' as hospital faces closure - claim

Catastrophe is feared as Siloam faces shut down

Sowetan 27/2/91. (113)

SILOAM, Venda's showpiece hospital serving about 200 000 people, is facing closure following a labour dispute dating back to February last year.

The health consequences of such a move are already being felt as the hospital is virtually closed, with only critically ill patients being attended to by doctors.

The rest are treated by nursing staff at a new clinic operating outside the hospital's premises where they are diagnosed, given medication and sent home without being seen by doctors.

This has reduced the hospital to an ordinary health centre, leading many sick people to avoid the institution and go to far-flung hospitals such as Donald Fraser, Tshilidzini and Elim.

Costly

Besides this being a costly exercise, the exodus of patients to the other hospitals has led to considerable congestion at these centres, with patients spending long hours at out-patients departments waiting to be attended to by overworked doctors.

What started as a labour dispute has now degenerated into a health catastrophe of shocking proportions, with doctors accusing nurses of incompetence and negligence. Nurses in turn claim the doctors are incompetent.

Workers, on the other hand, claim that the hospital authorities are exploiting them and refuse to listen to their grievances. At the same time, the health department says the whole affair is a politically-motivated action designed to embarrass the military regime of Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana.

In the middle of the muddle is superintendent Dr R Helms, a Dutch immigrant missionary doctor who has served the hospital for 30 years. Helms found the hospital as nothing more than a clinic and built it to what it is today.

The rub came in when Helms staffed it with fellow Dutch doctors. The workers accuse Helms of dictatorial tendencies.

When the spirit of liberalisation swept the country after President FW de Klerk's February 2 speech last year, workers also wanted their views to be heard.

They claim that Helms dismissed their approach as interference and refused to deal with their Workers Committee.

Among their complaints was that each time they approached him, he would threaten to leave the hospital with his fellow countrymen.

SILOAM Hospital in Venda grew from an ordinary clinic to become one of the biggest hospitals in the homeland. Now labour unrest and charges of racism, nepotism, negligence and incompetence may force it to close down. MATHATHA TSEDU reports.

A child gets treatment at Bara...services like this will may soon be a luxury in Venda.

The workers later got an undertaking that all future appointments of doctors would be preceded by advertisements in the media.

But on November 1 last year, two Dutch doctors, Dr R R Zeilstra and Dr M J Versteeg, who are husband and wife, assumed duty at the hospital without this procedure being followed.

Foul

Workers cried foul and insisted that the two should be dismissed and the posts be advertised.

When this was not done, almost the entire workforce, including nurses, para medical staff and general assistants, downed tools.

The two young Dutch immigrant doctors suddenly found themselves at the centre of a storm surrounding the quality of health services in Venda in general, and Siloam hospital in particular.

In the midst of a glaring shortage of doctors to care for the people in many rural areas, the insistence by Siloam workers that the two should be dismissed and the posts advertised sounds, at first hearing, a bit out of tune.

But workers and paramedics at the hospital insist that some of the immigrant doctors are underqualified.

At a meeting of community organisations held at Mphephu High School during the strike, several serious allegations were levelled at an allegedly incompetent doctor.

These included:

* A patient was operated on and left unstitched by the doctor. The patient was wheeled back from a ward when this was realised. Another patient had died after a pair of scissors was allegedly left in his stomach after an operation by the same doctor.

* Another doctor left the hospital of his own volition after allegedly confessing that he could not cope. It was also alleged that the doctor had been an "ambulance driver" back in Holland.

Racist

* That Dutch doctors were racist, with all their children born in their own homes. Post natal treatment was also done at their own houses.

* Houses in the hospital ground were reserved for whites only.

* Of all eight doctors who are presently at the hospital, only one, assistant superintendent Dr G M Maritz, is a South African.

Helms was in Holland when the bubble burst in November. The *Sowetan* spoke to Maritz at the time and put the allegations to him.

He said the trouble was being orchestrated by activists who wanted to run the hospital.

He denied that immigrant doctors were underqualified and said no doctor was allowed to practice without registering with the South African Medical and Dental Council.

He said the doctor referred to as a former ambulance driver, had in fact been a trauma specialist doctor who had been working with emergency services in the same way that doctors man the TV2/3 helicopter along major routes during peak seasons.

The doctor had done extra training for the job, he added.

He denied that the birth of the doctors' children in their homes was racism.

"It is a common practice in Holland for babies to be delivered at home.

"Because there are medical facilities nearby, it is easy for complications to be rushed to hospitals which are invariably about 10 minutes' drive away.

"It is therefore a cultural thing and not racism," he said.

When asked why his children were born at his home even though he was not a Dutch citizen, Maritz said his wife's grandfather came from Holland. He said this was why his wife clung to the Dutch culture.

He said houses were reserved for doctors and people from far away. A black medical student from Medunsa was presently occupying one of the houses, he said.

Maritz said the doctors serving the hospital had all been appointed without going through advertisements. This was because doctors did not want to serve in rural hospitals.

He started to work at Siloam 16 years ago and would continue serving there because he saw it as a calling by God.

Maritz said activists earlier last year accused a matron of nepotism and chased her away from the hospital.

A commission of inquiry was appointed to investigate the allegations and the matron was cleared of the accusations. But when she returned to work the nurses drove her out.

She has still not returned to the hospital, he said.

The two controversial doctors left the hospital at the end of January and are now working in KwaZulu, according to Health Secretary, Dr J McCutcheon.

Their departure has precipitated an exodus by the other Dutch doctors in what has been termed "white solidarity." Of the eight doctors presently at the hospital, three are serving notices, while Helms and his doctor wife are to leave in April.

This will leave only Maritz.

While people support the cause of the workers, there are those who feel other ways should be found of dealing with the problems without bringing the hospital to a standstill.

Others blame black doctors who are apparently reluctant to serve at hospitals.

More and more black doctors, it is said, go into the lucrative private practice market

But eventually, the involvement of black doctors in mass community health care, a massive increase in government expenditure on health services and the democratisation of communication structures at work will have to be attended to if this all vital service is to be saved, retained and enhanced.

500 000 fish die in Venda river

By Dirk Nel Star 8/3/91,
Northern Transvaal Bureau

THOHOYANDOU — More dead fish were removed yesterday from nets in the polluted Levubu river in Venda, while clinics reported they were treating scores of villagers for stomach ailments.

Though no indisputable evidence was available, it is thought many of the patients unwittingly drank water from the river and ate fish before warnings about the situation had reached them.

The Venda Department of Nature Conservation has estimated the number of dead fish at about half a million.

No action appears to have been taken yet against the alleged culprit, a fruit farmer whose negligence apparently caused poison used for citrus trees to land in the river.

Reprimand

No statement has been issued by the Transvaal Nature Conservation division, who are conducting an in-depth investigation into the cause and source of the pollution.

Yesterday there were rumours that the Minister of Environmental Affairs had sternly reprimanded officials of his department for not informing him of the situation's gravity.

It seems likely that both Venda and National Parks Board officials will push for a prosecution in terms of nature conservation legislation.

The threat to fish life in the Kruger National Park has apparently been averted by the rapid dilution of the poison as it was carried downstream. Yesterday no dead fish were found at the furthermost nets erected by Venda conservationists about 40 km from the park.

Fears of coup mount in Venda

113

Sowetan 12/3/91

A CLANDESTINE organisation aiming to topple Venda military strongman, Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, is believed to be operating in the homeland.

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

This was confirmed by Ramushwana when he met a delegation of the South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu), who were protesting against the non-payment of salaries last week.

Sadtu has given Ramushwana the names of people whom it called the "forces of evil planted in the department of finance".

The organisation agreed to work with the military government to "fight" the secret body. They also agreed to meet at least once a month.

According to reliable sources, the organisation has the backing of some senior officials.

Part of the organisation's plan is to create confusion among public servants by sparking a wage-related revolt against Ramushwana.

The sources said this was evident when the fluctuation in teachers' salaries started in November after the introduction of a Q-pack computer systems for the payment of salaries.

Teachers were singled out as they were the "most powerful force" which would speedily spark a revolt, sources said.

The unrest, which resulted in the previous government being toppled, started after teachers embarked on boycott action demanding salary increases. They were later joined by servants in other government departments.

The revelation of a secret organisation comes barely a month after the deposed Venda National Party (VNP) handed Ramushwana a memorandum calling for the general elections as its members "were legitimately elected by the people of Venda".

The military government has not yet publicly responded to the memo.

Schooling disrupted

Sowetan 13/3/91

SCHOOLING in the Venda capital Thohoyandou was disrupted yesterday when pupils streamed out of classes to commemorate the shooting of a pupil last year.

The pupils alleged that military regime was suppressing the case of a policeman, Mr G Mudzusi, who shot and killed Mrs Elsie Nephalama at Thohoyandou. (113)

Schools burnt as crisis gets worse

Sowetan 14/3/91 (113)

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

TWO schools were burnt down in Lebowa and Venda on Tuesday, causing damage estimated at thousands of rands as the education crisis in the homelands reached boiling point.

Police in Venda said school books, furniture and other goods were destroyed when people set fire to classrooms at Makumbane Higher Primary School. The damage is estimated at R10 000.

In Seshego, Masedibu High school was also set alight on Tuesday. One block of the school was completely destroyed, causing damage estimated at R5 000, Lebowa police spokesman Lieutenant ML Tlomatsana said.

The setting alight of the schools came as education in the far northern Transvaal was on the brink of collapse as pupils at several schools and tertiary institutions boycotting classes to press for demands ranging from dismissal of principals to improvement of hostel conditions.

Students at Sekhukhune Teacher Training College have not attended classes since the beginning of the year. They are demanding that hostels be improved.

Tivumbeni College of Education in Gazankulu was closed indefinitely on Tuesday, the secretary for education, Mr SDC Vukela, confirmed yesterday.

However, he refused to divulge reasons for the closure.

Facelift for township

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

RESIDENTIAL sites at Tshikota near Louis Trichardt are soon to be made available when the upgrading of the township gets off the ground.

The upgrading follows the township's recent granting of permanent status by State President FW de Klerk.

Tshikota became the target of forced removals in 1982. Sowetan 14/3/91

Its Venda and Shangaan-speaking residents were removed and resettled at Vleifontein and Waterval respectively.

Transvaal Provincial Administration spokesman in Pietersburg Mr Louis van Aart said the first phase of the upgrading had already begun.

Star 26/3/91.

Siloam Hospital may close

THOHOYANDOU — A task group from the Venda departments of health and community development, law and order and defence, has released a statement on the situation at the Siloam Hospital, which faces closure.

The chairman, S R Makhuvha, said yesterday that attempts to recruit doctors had proved fruitless, and local practitioners were "too busy with their private practices" to give attention to hospital affairs.

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The director general of the department of health and community development, Dr John Macutcheon, said applications had been received from South African doctors and they had had inquiries from eastern Europe.

Vendas shun talks

(113)

Sowetan 4/4/91.

VENDA and other TBVC states would not take part in the multiparty conference being convened by the SA Government, the bantustan's military ruler, Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana said yesterday.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

He was speaking to the *Sowetan* in an exclusive interview on the eve of the first anniversary of his take-over of the Venda government.

Ramushwana said State President FW de Klerk had told him that the MPC would actually decide on the status and participation of all the quasi states in the negotiation process.

Ramushwana said he was to form a "re-incorporation forum" comprising various organisations in the bantustan.

The forum would work out the agenda for reincorporation.

He was not prepared to hand power back to the Venda National Party because they were corrupt and had failed. He may however, hand over power to "other people", he said.

He said his government was aware of moves by "some people.

The interview, which touched on the moves to oust him, commissions investigating corruption, allegations that he was soft on misconduct by whites, his relationship with the ANC, treatment of returning exiles, executions and the disbanding of the security branch, will be published in the *Sowetan* tomorrow.

RAMUSHWANA

SONNY BOYS U S A

Inkatha man

Venda strongman vows to go back to the barracks

CP Correspondent

CIP News 7/4/91 (113)

AFTER a year in power Venda's military supremo Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana maintains he will return to barracks.

Speaking from Thohoyandou this week, Ramushwana said he intended to bring Venda back into South Africa and then "go back to the barracks".

The soldier who led the bloodless coup on April 5 last year maintains he is not a politician, but took over the government because he was perturbed by unrest in the homeland.

"The unrest in the country; lawlessness; necklacing; ritual murders; the people's dissatisfaction with the government, and the instability worried me," he said.

Soon after the coup Ramushwana appointed various commissions of inquiry to investigate alleged corruption, maladministration and nepotism in the toppled government.

The Venda National Party (VNP), which he ousted from power, has accused Ramushwana of forcing the commissions of inquiry to drag on longer than necessary to justify his clinging to power.

In a memorandum submitted earlier this year the VNP ordered Ramushwana to hand power back as stability had been achieved.

The memorandum cautioned Ramushwana that he was not democratically elected – unlike the VNP.

"I may hand over government to any other people, but not to the VNP," said Ramushwana, adding that all the general elections were won by the Venda Independence Party (VIP) and had been rigged by the VNP.

On the question of his sudden move to "the palace of injustice" – the official house of the State President – Ramushwana said he would nor live there permanently.

"If we let anybody occupy the house, the image of authority would be destroyed," he said.

Ramushwana, a colonel who halted all promotions when he took over, is now a brigadier officially addressed as "the Right Honourable".

Asked why whites occupied all influencial positions in his government – including the chief government spokesman, police commissioner, police spokesman and the Venda Defence Force (VDF) chief of staff – Ramushwana said there were simply no blacks qualified for the jobs.

He said his government was in the process of forming a forum which would represent Venda at the negotiation table. The forum, composed of all political and interested parties, would also determine whether to adopt a participatory or observer status at the negotiation table.

Much as Ramushwana sounded keen to return to barracks after the "new South Africa" has been realised, he is determined to track down conspirators who were plotting to overthrow him, he said.

Venda was moving with the changing South Africa and already the security police had been disbanded and attached to the Crime Prevention Unit.

However, the security laws such as the notorious Internal Security Act remain intact, "because you never know what happens tomorrow".

Venda society to fight drugs

Sowetan 19/4/91

(113)

THE Venda health department has launched a massive campaign to educate pupils about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse.

Colonel Brian Du Toit said health educators would visit all secondary schools in the area from today to give guidance to pupils.

The rise in alcohol and drug abuse led to the formation of the Society on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence a year ago.

The society's information officer, Mr Edzisani Ramaite, said the 40 cases they handled every month was only a fraction of those who should be treated.

Venda on 'way to reincorporation'

Sowetan 9/4/91

(113)

FOCUS

ON April 5 last year, the Venda Defence Force took over power in a bloodless coup. Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana became the new head of state.

Ramushwana spoke to MATHATHA TSEDU, *Sowetan's* Northern Transvaal bureau chief, about his year in power and his plans for the quasi-independent state.

This is the first of a two-part series.

QUESTION: Can you to tell us how the takeover was planned and executed?

Ramushwana: I do not think I can give out that sort of information. It is something that I will die with. It is too personal.

Although it affects all the Venda people, I prefer to keep it to myself.

QUESTION: There were assertions at the time that you were Pretoria's blue-eyed boy.

Ramushwana: These were unfounded allegations. If you look at it now, this was the first time that I have had direct discussions with the State President.

From last year I had been trying to get through to Pretoria but the doors were not opened for me.

The other chaps in the other states had a lot of time and opportunities to see him. If I was Pretoria's blue-eyed boy, they would just say 'sure come through' immediately I asked to see him.

QUESTION: Have your aims of taking over been achieved?

Ramushwana: It was not an easy decision but as a result of the positive reaction from the people I managed to succeed.

You will remember how I declared a state of emergency and a curfew. And after a few days the situation calmed down and I started reorganising the government.

I appointed nine councillors and I was happy because every thing went back to normal. I was to start addressing the problems of the people.

I had to start then with the commission (of inquiry) on corruption and causes of the unrest.

I had to look at the financial status of the country and I had to check what the previous government had intended to do with the finances available.

We realised that there was money in the region of R900 000 for vehicles which were due to arrive.

I stopped that and we saved about R900 000.

I rationalised the government departments from 23 to 17. The number of ministers is down to nine councillors, and they occupy nine houses. I let the other houses out to people.

The government gets some revenue because the people pay rent. I also cut down on the expenditure because we wanted to pay back the R200 million deficit that I inherited.

I managed to bring this down to about R104 million.

QUESTION: One of the major problems during that period was salary improvements.

Ramushwana: What I did was I looked at the set-up in South Africa because of the parity that they wanted. I got all the information from South Africa. We looked at the money available and it was done.

QUESTION: What about people such as labourers in government employ?

Ramushwana: The same thing happened to them too. They also got adjustments similar to those in the RSA, except for people we refer to as VEAP labourers.

Venda Employment Agency Project or something like that. This originally started as a drought relief fund.

These people are employed but we do not pay them as the government but are paid from a fund which the SA government made available.

But it has since lapsed. These are the people who did not get any adjustments because they are considered as temporary employees.

They are not government employees.

QUESTION: We understand that these people, numbering about 4 000, have all been dismissed.

Ramushwana: Well, you see the money comes from the RSA but there is a new scheme that I initiated.

This scheme will aim at training people in certain trades. They will then go into self help projects and eventually go into business with the assistance of the Venda Development Corporation.

QUESTION: When can we expect to hear of the outcome of the Agriven commission?

Ramushwana: I received the Agriven report only last week.

I forwarded the report to my legal adviser as well as the chairman of the Agriven board for implementation of the recommendations set out in the report.

QUESTION: Is the report going to be made public?

Ramushwana: Yes, the report will definitely be made public. We may be in a position to publicise it next week.

QUESTION: We understand the talks with Mr de Klerk in Cape Town centered on how you saw your role in the evolving political setup and how reincorporation would occur.

Ramushwana: I am not a politician but I want to secure Venda back into the RSA.

And I would like to do it through reincorporation. I indicated that I will get people from the left and the right, in other words a cross section of the community.

Political organisations are welcome to form part of the reincorporation forum. Church leaders, traditional leaders, civil servants, all professional as well as businessmen are welcome to serve on it.

Once Venda is reincorporated into the new SA, then I think that if I haven't retired from the army, I will go back to the barracks.

QUESTION: What is this reincorporation forum?

Ramushwana: It is a forum that is going to sit and work out an agenda for reincorporation.

In other words, how Venda is going to be reincorporated. It is also going to look at the feasibility of being part of the negotiating process.

But as I got it from State President De Klerk, the Multi-Party Conference will decide the TBVC states' participation in the negotiations.

QUESTION: Has the forum already come about?

Ramushwana: We are in the process of doing that.

***Continued tomorrow**

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Deon du Plessis. Newsbills by Sydney Matlhaku. Sub-editing and headlines by Ivan Fynn.
All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

* Write to the Editor at PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000. Nom-de-Plumes can be used, but full names and addresses should be supplied or the letter will not be published.

Venda boss ready for coup plotters

10/4/91 Sowetan 10/4/91

(113)

FOCUS

ON April 5 last year, the Venda Defence Force took over power in a bloodless coup. Head of state Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana talks to MATHATHA TSEDU about his year in power. This is the last of the two-part series.

QUESTION: Is Venda going to go into the multiparty conference?

Ramushwana: No. Not at this stage. As I indicated, the State President indicated that the MPC will decide as to what role the TBVC states will play.

QUESTION: Does it mean then that your political moves from here will be dependent on this reincorporation forum?

Ramushwana: In as far as reincorporation is concerned, yes.

QUESTION: When you took over you established good relations with the top leadership of the ANC as evidenced by your visit to Lusaka. But you failed with its grassroots membership here. What is the position now?

Ramushwana: I do not think I failed to maintain the same tempo or relationship with grassroots ANC supporters.

We are in a very good situation and we always meet and discuss regional problems here.

QUESTION: Mr Nelson Mandela told people when he visited Venda that you had agreed to work with the ANC. How do you see other organisations agreeing to work with you in the reincorporation forum if you already have alliances with one organisation?

Ramushwana: What is clear here is that I am working hand in hand with everybody. With all organisations. Whether it is the ANC, PAC or Azaso or Azapo I don't mind.

Anyone who is prepared to talk to me I am prepared to talk.

I have indicated that I am neutral and when I talk to them, I talk as a neutral person.

QUESTION: There is a complaint here that your government is very quick to act when there are allegations of corruption against black people. They are dismissed or suspended. But not so with whites.

Ramushwana: No, that is not a valid point. If a person's evidence is being heard or his activities are being looked into, I don't think it will be fair for the government to take action against that person until we receive a report, recommendations or findings of the commission.

But I cannot just interrupt the proceedings. We could hear that this guy has done this and this but we need the findings before we can take action.

QUESTION: But the Taylor Commission at some point made recommendations that certain white officials at Agriven be suspended but this was never carried out.

Ramushwana: I do not know about that. I never received a letter from Leon Taylor where he was recommending that a certain chap should be suspended. I'm only aware of what appeared in the paper.

QUESTION: But Taylor confirmed to the media that such a recommendation had been submitted to you.

Ramushwana: I don't have that information. I never received such a thing and if you insist we can call Taylor now.

QUESTION: Mr Tshivhase, the VNP leader, says there was an understanding between you and the VNP that you would merely restore stability and hand back to them.

Ramushwana: I never spoke to any political party when I came back. All I did was I wrote a letter and I gave it to president Ravele and I said 'sign.'

He hesitated but he later on signed. And I said to him you are confined to your houses until it is safe for you to go out.

QUESTION: You said you may hand over power to "other different people" and definitely not the VNP. Who do you have in mind?

Ramushwana: I don't have anybody in mind but definitely not the National Party.

QUESTION: Why not? They say when you took them out they had been elected?

Ramushwana: You and I know very well that these people were never elected democratically. You know that. All the general elections that were ever held here were rigged. Now how can I today admit that these people were elected.

QUESTION: In your discussions with Mr de Klerk and in your own understanding, how long do you see yourself still occupying this office?

Ramushwana: I will remain as long as it takes us to be reincorporated.

QUESTION: Do you see yourself moving permanently into the presidential palace?

Ramushwana: No, I don't. We have two houses standing empty.

I realised that we were going to mess up the things unless we could use it as something to accommodate some people.

But we also realised we were going to destroy the image of authority. So we decided that I will have to be there sometimes and stay there and move down to my modest house just like that.

QUESTION: How serious is the threat to overthrow you?

Ramushwana: Well, every threat is serious. You should not overlook anything that you pick up.

You should always take it seriously. There is some information at our disposal that certain people are intent on overthrowing my government.

Some of them are members of the VNP but we are ready for them. Once we can get something concrete on them, and we crack the conspiracy network, we could pounce on them.

QUESTION: There is also talk that since you took over, more whites are occupying high positions

Ramushwana: We don't have qualified people. We have advertised these posts and I am prepared to hire even if the person is a Pedi, or Shangaan, I don't have any tribalistic connotations.

QUESTION: Do you think that there are people feeding you wrong information?

Ramushwana: It is very possible, you never trust anything.

QUESTION: What is the position regarding the death penalty and the executions of condemned people?

Ramushwana: We have just amended the section to accommodate the South African version of this Act.

QUESTION: Does this mean there is now a moratorium?

Ramushwana: Not exactly. We have a problem in Venda with ritual killers.

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Deon du Plessis. Newsbills by Sydney Matlhaku. Sub-editing and headlines by Ivan Fynn. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

* Write to the Editor at PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000. Nom-de-Plumes can be used, but full names and addresses should be supplied or the letter will not be published.

'Necklace' murderers set to hang

THREE convicted murderers were yesterday sentenced to death by a Venda Supreme Court judge for the "necklace" murder of the wife of a New Apostolic Church bishop.

Four other men were given lighter sentences.

Samuel Matala (20) Josiah Mulaudzi (30) and Norman Ramalata (22), all of Nthabalala village, Venda, were sentenced to hang for murdering Mrs Emmalina Makulana on March 21 last year.

Martin Ramarata and Thomas Mudau, both 20, were each sentenced to six years, of which two were conditionally suspended for five years.

A 17-year-old youth was sentenced to six cane strokes while Joseph Makhuvhele (22) was given a two-year prison sentence, one of which was suspended for a year.

Testimony was that the seven were part of a group of people who took a decision to burn Makulana to death as she was a witch.

Sjambok

She was assaulted with a sjambok and told to pray. A tyre was then placed around her body.

She was doused with petrol and set alight.

Mr Justice JC van der Walt found that the motive was not witchcraft.

He said some people had taken advantage of the unrest situation which prevailed in the area to further their personal aims.- *Sapa.*

Sowetan 23/4/91

113

rug case

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said yesterday.

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if someone here chal-
the validity of the pa-
e said.

Venda tightens its grip on cash

Star 6/5/91 (113)

The Venda government has gazetted a proclamation controlling all public accounts until reincorporation of the homeland into South Africa.

A select committee, with the power to call witnesses and take evidence, will be appointed to review all accounts after the auditor-general has submitted a report on the financial situation of the various departments, such as the Venda Development Corporation (VDC), Venda Electricty Corporation (VEC), and the Agricultural Corporation (Agriven).

Auditor-general Douglas Maphiri said that members of the committee would be independent, experienced financiers and administrators, including businessmen. No government members would be appointed.

The committee would submit a written report on the auditor-general's report to the Council for National Unity, which would then take the necessary action.

Mr Maphiri said the committe would also look into Agriven's reported loss of R17 million.

“The loss may be more or less than that.”

Mr Peter Soal

'Help control spending of SA aid'

Political Staff ARGUS 7/5/91

FOREIGN Minister Mr Pik Botha has been advised to reach transitional agreements with Venda and Transkei to control their spending of South African aid.

Mr Peter Soal (DP Johannesburg North) told parliament an arrangement made by the South African government with Ciskei recently had been "highly significant."

Ciskei had been on the verge of total collapse when it was agreed that South Africa should appoint the Ciskei's Ministers of Finance, Economic Affairs, State Administration, Justice, Transport, Public Works and Agriculture.

Mr Soal said South Africa should make similar transitional appointments in Venda and Transkei, pending re-incorporation, to ensure aid was properly controlled.

He said President De Klerk had indicated last week that the situation was different in Bophuthatswana which was "doing well" financially.

4 chiefs dethroned (113)

FOUR chiefs, including the former Venda president Mr Frank Ravele, were dethroned yesterday because their appointments were irregular, a military government spokesman said, writes **Russel Molefe.**

Colonel Brian du Toit said the dethronement was the result of a recommendation by a commission of inquiry into the appointment of chiefs in the homeland.

The commission was appointed by Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana following allegations of nepotism concering the appointment of chiefs by the deposed government. Sowetan 17/5/91

The other chiefs dethroned are the late Mr TT Ramabulana, Mr CN Mphephu and Mr HN Musekwa.

Venda's Revele hits skids

CP News 19/5/91

(113)

CP Correspondent

DEPOSED Venda State President Frank Revele has now been dismissed as a chief.

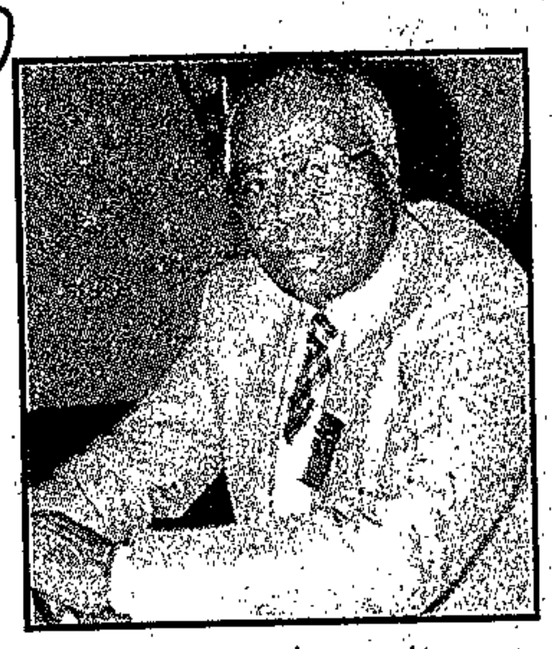
Revele is one of three chiefs dismissed in terms of a recommendation by a Venda Commission of Inquiry into the appointment of chiefs.

"His appointment was found to be irregular," military government spokesman Colonel Brian du Toit told *City Press*.

Military leader Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, who ousted Revele recently in a bloodless coup, appointed the commission after allegations of "nepotism" in the appointment of chiefs.

Revele succeeded the late Patrick Mphephu as Venda State President in April 1988.

He was born near Louis Trichardt in November 1926.



Frank Revele ... dethroned.

In 1980 he was made Minister of Economic Affairs and after Mphephu's death joined the Venda Cabinet as acting State President and was later appointed State President.

Lawyer faces bribery charge

(113)

Sowetan 21/5/91

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

THE suspended Venda director-general for justice, Mr SR Muthige, allegedly fired an attorney in exchange for being supplied with question papers for his final examination by the lawyer's wife.

This emerged yesterday in the homeland's Supreme Court where Muthige is on trial for bribery, 36 counts of theft and eight of fraud.

It is alleged before Mr Justice JC van der Walt that Muthige was approached by Mr Robert Kiersch's wife, Getrude, in 1986 to dismiss him because their relationship had become strained.

Mrs Kiersch was at the time employed at the University of Venda's examination section.

Muthige is alleged to have agreed to do so on condition that he be supplied with question papers for the final examinations of his B Juris degree. He passed the examination.

Kiersch later received a letter from Muthige in November 1986 informing him of the dismissal. He is presently employed somewhere outside the homeland.

It is also alleged that Muthige had intentionally underpaid pensioners while still a magistrate at Mutale and later stole confidential files to make the money he allegedly "pocketed" untraceable.

A total of 35 witnesses are to be called.

Rage in Venda at college closure

C/Press 9/6/91

By BENSON NTLEMO

(113)

OUTRAGE over the controversial closure of Gazankulu's Tivumbeni College of Education this week spread to Venda.

The entire student body at the University of Venda embarked on a week-long class boycott to pledge solidarity with the 960 students affected by the Gazankulu government decision.

The students also complained about a proclamation by the ruling Venda military government this week outlawing marches and all forms of mass action.

About 2 500 students marched from the campus to the Thohoyandou police station to present a memorandum containing their grievances.

Tivumbeni College was closed for the rest of the year after chief minister Prof Hudson Ntsanwisi accused students of making political demands and of being influenced by political organisations.

University of Venda students claimed that there was general repression in the northern Transvaal, particularly in Gazankulu.

Sleep-in staged to demand hostels

Sowetan 10/6/91 (113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

MORE than 300 students at the Makhado College of Education in Venda have turned the administration block into sleeping quarters to press for construction of hostels.

The 304 students have occupied the offices since May 15 and say they will move out only when the college undertakes in writing to start building.

Tender board

Deputy Director-General for Education Mr EE Maimela said money for hostels was allocated out of this year's budget, but that the matter still had to go through the tender board before construction could start.

The college, opened about 10 years ago, has no boarding facilities.

Meanwhile, students representative council president Mr Tshifhiwa Dali yesterday alleged that three masked men had attacked his girlfriend at his home on Monday night while looking for him.

He said the men, who spoke Venda and wore socks with no shoes, told his girlfriend they wanted to kill him because he was causing problems at the college with the sit-in.

The woman was slapped and gagged, Dali said.

His room was ransacked and his belongings left in disarray, he said.

Dali said he believed the action was aimed at intimidating him and other students into abandoning the sit-in.

	1)* 1988/89 R	1)* 1989/90 R	2)** 1990/91 R
D. TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE			
Manpower provision	4 829 355	6 899 875	5 744 363
Flour subsidy	6 791 280	5 127 755	7 122 846
Technical assistance	682 312	665 581	279 749
Salaries of Judges	381 552	666 834	549 833
TOTAL	12 684 499	13 360 045	13 696 791
GRAND TOTAL	1 390 151 572	1 690 121 612	1 904 483 794

* 1) Actual expenditure

** 2) Estimated expenditure

NOTE:

Transfer payments in respect of customs union share and common monetary area appear on the budget vote of the Department of Finance.

SCHEDULE 2

AID TO BOPHUTHATSWANA

	1)* 1988/89 R	1)* 1989/90 R	2)** 1990/91 R
A. DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE			
Budgetary Aid	448 565 841	539 641 740	666 638 000
Incentive scheme for industries	18 164 058	20 992 666	21 982 443
Non recoverable financial assistance	7 612 576	5 559 323	—
Relief of distress	—	—	—
Special Job creation	8 499 999	9 860 805	—
TOTAL	482 842 474	576 054 534	688 620 443

	1)* 1988/89 R	1)* 1989/90 R	2)** 1990/91 R
B. TRANSFER PAYMENTS			
Tax compensation	59 414 367	72 647 339	95 000 000
Customs union	516 028 000	623 354 000	698 418 000
Common monetary area	8 458 560	11 585 617	14 115 400
TOTAL	583 900 927	707 586 956	807 533 400
C. Loans from RSA (Project Aid)	9 132 130	19 148 127	12 710 000
D. TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE			
Manpower provision	12 941 420	19 312 765	16 301 329
Flour subsidy	7 441 345	4 346 724	2 686 625
Technical assistance	878 702	873 034	119 644
Salaries of Judges	170 207	111 093	222 499
TOTAL	21 431 674	24 643 616	19 330 097
GRAND TOTAL	1 097 307 205	1 327 433 233	1 528 193 940

* 1) Actual expenditure

** 2) Estimated expenditure

NOTE:

Transfer payments in respect of customs union share and common monetary area appear on the budget vote of the Department of Finance.

SCHEDULE 3

AID TO VENDA 113

	1)* 1988/89 R	1)* 1989/90 R	2)** 1990/91 R
A. DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE			
Budgetary Aid	290 194 860	348 202 230	437 125 000
Incentive scheme for industries	3 148 392	6 362 648	7 415 646

	1)* 1988/89 R	1)* 1989/90 R	2)** 1990/91 R
Non recoverable financial assistance	7 134 183	1 200 522	—
Relief of distress	—	—	—
Special Job creation	2 479 372	2 095 036	—
TOTAL	302 956 807	357 860 436	444 540 646
B. TRANSFER PAYMENTS			
Tax compensation	10 322 361	12 621 392	16 000 000
Customs union	86 653 000	90 390 000	99 580 000
Common monetary area	2 601 173	3 559 250	4 335 067
TOTAL	99 576 534	106 570 642	119 915 067
C. Loans from RSA (Project Aid)	11 344 730	27 058 928	15 078 000
D. TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE			
Manpower provision	11 551 110	14 549 855	10 964 806
Flour subsidy	1 762 451	1 130 893	921 744
Technical assistance	928 541	545 222	197 296
Salaries of Judges	191 541	401 041	204 729
TOTAL	14 433 643	16 627 011	12 288 575
GRAND TOTAL	428 311 714	508 117 017	591 822 288

* 1) Actual expenditure

** 2) Estimated expenditure

NOTE:

Transfer payments in respect of customs union share and common monetary area appear on the budget vote of the Department of Finance.

SCHEDULE 4

AID TO CISKEI

	1)* 1988/89 R	1)* 1989/90 R	2)** 1990/91 R
A. DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE			
Budgetary Aid	384 930 928	440 033 134	561 934 117
Incentive scheme for industries	31 310 570	16 098 888	35 324 135
Non recoverable financial assistance	99 278	—	—
Relief of distress	—	—	—
Special Job creation	6 457 660	4 995 317	—
TOTAL	422 798 436	461 127 339	597 258 252
B. TRANSFER PAYMENTS			
Tax compensation	33 141 862	40 523 332	53 000 000
Customs union	180 489 000	221 776 000	265 989 000
Common monetary area	4 794 133	6 561 400	7 993 440
TOTAL	218 424 995	268 860 732	326 982 440
C. Loans from RSA (Project Aid)	11 544 730	20 359 114	11 649 000
D. TECHNICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE			
Manpower provision	17 570 022	17 112 280	13 786 329
Flour subsidy	454 378	322 036	117 755
Technical assistance	432 276	573 049	473 421
Salaries of Judges	345 508	726 976	382 505
TOTAL	18 802 184	18 734 341	14 760 010
GRAND TOTAL	671 570 345	769 081 526	950 649 702

* 1) Actual expenditure

** 2) Estimated expenditure

NOTE:

Transfer payments in respect of customs union share and common monetary area appear on the budget vote of the Department of Finance.

Thumbs up for MK

By THEMBA KHUMALO

MILITARY leaders Gen Bantu Holomisa of Transkei and Brig Gabriel Ramushwana of Venda have given their support to Umkhonto weSizwe's plan to establish itself as a regular army.

Addressing 500 delegates at MK's three-day national conference, which ends today at the University of Venda in Thohoyandou, Holomisa and Ramushwana said MK was free to organise in the two homelands.

Holomisa said: "We could well be on a course of national reconciliation, peace and unity where the interests of one South Africa will reign supreme and oblige us to defend them as one unit."

Ramushwana said MK was free to organise support in Venda as long as its activities were peaceful and did not violate any laws of the homeland.

He received a standing ovation after calling on MK commanders to retrain their forces with a view to establishing democracy in a unitary South Africa.

He added that his military council would be announcing a process which would facilitate the reincorporation of Venda back into South Africa.

The council was preparing a comprehensive document which would be taken back to the people for discussion, he said. The contents of the document would be publicised in two weeks time, he added.

Colleges on the boil

New Nation (Learning N) 6/9 - 12/9/91. 113

Teacher training in the Northern Transvaal is on the verge of collapse because of the ongoing crisis at CN Phatudi and Venda Colleges of Education.

There has been almost no learning in the two colleges since the beginning of the year and it is feared that the Lebowa and the Venda administrations would follow the example of Gazankulu and close down the institutions.

Gazankulu closed down Tivumbeni College of Education earlier this year, because it accused students of making "impossible political" demands.

The CN Phatudi College has moved from crisis to controversies and it appears that neither the students, teachers nor the authorities have the capacity to put the college back to normality.

Presently, 45 lecturers have been suspended by the Lebowa government and are being replaced by teachers recruited from the neighbouring states.

Suspended

The suspension of the lecturers is also a controversial issue that appears to date back to 1989 disputes.

It has been rumoured that nine of the 45 lecturers have been suspended for allegedly failing third-year students in 1989. After being suspended, 36 other lecturers stayed away from class in solidarity with their nine colleagues.

The case of the students has been to the Pretoria Supreme Court, it has been discussed by the National Education Co-ordinating Committee (NECC), the SA Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) and the ANC.

Past reports indicate that there was agreement that the scripts of the students who failed their exams be remarked and an inquiry be conducted.

Since then there has been conflicting reports and reasons on why the remarking was not done

Some reports said the 45 lecturers were taking the authorities to court over the suspensions.

Complicate

Other reports said that the lecturers wanted the scripts remarked and that they were keen to align with the students against the department. This, according to observers could complicate the situation further because the students might demand their re-instatement in exchange of a blanket pass.

The crisis at Venda College of Education are also linked to massive failures of students.

The NECC region in the Northern Transvaal said that the crisis at the institution began in May when students demanded that a lecturer be dismissed for allegedly failing them.

The NECC said a state of confrontation ensued when a college council member "uttered vulgar words" against the students. His dismissal was also demanded by the students.

Fighting broke out between the students and three lecturers. This led to the suspension of 12 Student Representative Council (SRC) members.

Last week the students challenged their suspension in court and the case will be heard next week.

NECC secretary in the region, Pandelani Ramagoma, said it was feared that if the 12 were not re-instated there could be further confrontation which could lead to class boycotts or closure.

found on the spot the following day,

Policeman charged

Own Correspondent

ANOTHER policeman was arrested and appeared briefly in the New Hanover Magistrate's Court yesterday, bringing to seven the number of people charged in connection with the Trust Feeds massacre in December 1988.

The accused, who include two police captains and four former SAP special constables are charged with the shooting of 11 people, including women and children, who were allegedly holding a funeral vigil at Trust Feeds.

Sgt Neville Alexander Rose, 35, was the latest policeman to be arrested in connection with the incident yesterday. He pleaded not guilty to the charges and was released on R1 000 bail.

The other accused are Capt Brian Mitchell, Capt Jacobus van den Heever, David Ndwalane, Dumisani Khambula, Thabo Sikhosana and Kehla Cyprian Ngubane.

Van den Heever was released last week on R3 000 bail.

The Natal Attorney-General has issued certificates refusing bail to the other accused. B/Day 10/9/91

The hearing was adjourned until Friday.

State witness gunned down

CAPE TOWN — A State witness in the murder of Edward Gordon, also known as "Peaches", and his girlfriend were found shot dead in a car yesterday.

Gordon, who gave evidence before the Harms Commission on the activities of the Civil Co-operation Bureau, was also found shot dead in a stolen car on the N2 in January.

Igsaam Sharief, 34, of Mitchell's Plain, and Dorothy Spencer, 26, of Athlone, were found dead in a stolen car in Athlone. Both had been shot in the head.

Sharief was held in custody at the Rondebosch police cells for his own safety, but escaped on August 3. — Sapa.

Venda forum to advise on reincorporation into post-apartheid SA

B/Day 10/9/91. (113)

THEO RAWANA

VENDA military leader Gabriel Ramushwana has set up a forum to advise him on reincorporating his homeland with SA.

Ramushwana told a news conference in Thohoyandou yesterday that Venda did not seek reincorporation with "the present apartheid SA, but with the envisaged new, non-racial, democratic SA".

Ramushwana, chairman of the Venda Council of National Unity, came to power in April last year after deposing president Frank Ravele, who succeeded Patrick Mphephu in April 1988. Mphephu had been president since independence in 1979.

Ramushwana said pressure from opponents of homeland policy, coupled with SA's preparedness to abolish apartheid, influenced Venda — which had become aware of losing a sponsor — to demand reincorporation.

"I and the Council of National Unity have decided to pass legislation providing for the establishment of a Reincorporation Forum to advise me in my capacity as chairman of the council," he said.

The forum will be made up of 28 traditional leaders, 56 members elected by the 28 territorial councils, two from the Venda Chamber of Commerce, two from the churches in Venda and 10 members with "special knowledge, qualifications or wide experience" to be appointed by Ramushwana.

"It is not a negotiation body in itself, but may facilitate the process leading to negotiation," Ramushwana said.

Venda: Back to SA?

(113)

CT 10/9/91

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Venda military leader Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana has set up a forum to advise him on reincorporating his homeland with South Africa.

He told a news conference in Thohoyandou yesterday that Venda did not seek reincorporation with "the present apartheid South Africa, but with the envisaged new, non-racial, democratic South Africa".

The Venda leader came to power in April last year after deposing President Frank Ravele.

Venda chief Ramushwana slated

Sowetan 12/9/91 (113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Government must clarify whether participation in the negotiation process would be for military dictatorship or political parties, the Venda National Party said yesterday.

Reacting to an announcement by military ruler Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana on the formation of a reincorporation forum to advise the government, VNP leader Mr AR Tshivhase said yesterday his party rejected the forum as an attempt to perpetuate military rule.

He said his party discussed the forum and found it wanting. Ramu-shwana's government should hand over power to the people. The forum, he said, "lacks the essence of democracy. Its entire membership is based on nominations, ex-officio, and self-appointed individuals with no constituency at all.

"The structure is not only undemocratic but reflects yet another extension of apartheid which is worse than the past era", Tshivhase said. He said the forum was the reintroduction of the ousted parliament, only this time all the participants will be Ramushwana's people.

"If parliament is necessary, let there be elections," he said.

Venda back to SA fold

By THEMBA KHUMALO

C/Press 15/9/91.

(113)

VENDA had a strange holiday on Friday, the 12th anniversary of its independence.

Yet no one took to the streets to celebrate – not even Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, chairman of the homeland's National Council of Unity.

"I'm indifferent to the holiday because I don't recognise it," Ramushwana told City Press.

The homeland leader this week announced the establishment of a broad-based "Reincorporation Forum" to advise him on Venda's reincorporation into new South Africa.

Ramushwana also announced elections for the traditional leaders known as mahosi.

Asked why he could not hand over to a civilian government, Ramushwana said his people were "sick and tired of being ruled by corrupt leaders".

"We can't risk that happening again," he said.

Asked why Venda was seeking reincorporation, Ramushwana said: "The loss of sponsorship and the pressure by political organisations opposed to the homelands policy and the resultant balkanisation of South Africa influenced Venda to demand reincorporation."

He pointed out that his council would ensure that Venda was returned to a democratic South Africa, and "not under the present racist regime".

Riot chief 'ordered killings'

C/Press 15/9/91

THE State alleges that the former head of the police riot unit in the Maritzburg and surrounding areas, the late Maj Deon Terblanche, gave instructions for the slaughter of 11 people.

In the mass killing in the New Hanover district in December 1988, 11 people were shot dead, while Terblanche, who has since been murdered, was still a captain.

In an indictment served in the New Hanover Magistrate's Court on Friday, the State alleged the attack was carried out by a group of SAP members.

The seven accused are Capt Jakobus van der Heever, Capt Brian Mitchell, Sgt Neville Alexander Rose, Special Sgt Dumisani Ndwalane and Special Constables Khehla Ngubane, Thabo Sikhosana and David Khambule.

The men face 11 charges of murder and eight of attempted murder. The case has been postponed to October 15 in the Supreme Court.

Political comment and newsbills by K Sibiya, headlines and sub-editing by S James, both of 2 Herb Street, Johannesburg.

Venda hospital open once more

Star 16/9/91

By Willie Mashau
Northern Transvaal Bureau

113

Venda's health crisis eased last week when Siloam Hospital, which has been closed since February, reopened, said Health and Community Development Director General Dr John McCutcheon.

The hospital, which serves about 200 000 people, was forced to close when 13 Dutch doctors resigned. Last week three doctors, from Zimbabwe, Ghana, and the Middle East, were appointed, enabling the hospital to become operational again.

However, the situation at the hospital is tense and the Venda Defence Force has taken control of security. All visitors are expected to sign a register.

Dr McCutcheon said the soldiers were helping with administration work as many of the staff have been suspended pending investigations into alleged misconduct.

The health crisis in the homeland began in November last year when the government appointed two young doctors from The Netherlands.

The Siloam Hospital Workers' Representatives Committee (SHWRC) rejected the appointments and said the two doctors had "only four year's medical training and in their country are only regarded as doctors' assistants whereas here they performed surgery without supervision".

The SHWRC also accused medical superintendent Dr E Helms of racism. They alleged that he had turned down a number of qualified South African applicants because they did not belong to the Netherland Reformed Church.

The two doctors resigned in January .

Eleven other Dutch doctors at the hospital resigned in February in a gesture of solidarity with the young couple. Dr McCutcheon described the furore as "pathetic".

On August 9, six nurses and 10 administrative staff, all members of the SHWRC, were found guilty of instigation and participation in the hospital strike by the Venda Supreme Court.

Dr McCutcheon said that all the nurses who had been transferred to Tshilidzini Hospital are now back at Siloam.

"Although some of the serious surgeries are being referred to Tshilidzini, Siloam is now fully operating," Dr McCutcheon said.

Star 19/9/91

Act amended (113)

An amendment to the Venda Police Act of 1985, which prohibits members of the Venda Police Force from becoming members of political parties or taking part in certain political activities, was announced this week.

The Brigadier of the people

Argus 22/4/91

By THEMBA KHUMALO

BRIGADIER Gabriel Ramushwana, chairman of the National Council of Unity, the military government in Venda, is a man of many tongues – he speaks 21 languages, and plans to learn more.

This contrasts greatly with Chief Patrick Mphephu who ruled Venda before Bernard Ravele took over prior to being ousted by Ramushwana.

It was well known that Mphephu was not literate in any langauge, even his own.

Although he was once an South Africa security policeman who hunted ANC cadres, Ramushwana is now in the bad books of the South African Government, and is one of Nelson Mandela's best friends.

Says Ramushwana: "I'm not a politician. I'm a facilitator, and this is where my knowledge of languages comes in handy. All I want is peace and stability for all South Africans."

Although he has been a military man for 25 years, he has only one scar, and he didn't even bother to track down the people who gave it to him.

At 50, Ramushwana is amazingly fit. He jogs almost every morning, sometimes with his wife or his adopted son, David – who is now studying in London, but comes home during school holidays.

"I don't carry a gun when I jog or go shopping with my family because I'm not afraid of being assassinated. I'm the people's brigadier, and the people who mob us when we go out are friendly," Ramushwana said.

A fervent disciplinarian, Ramushwana hates driving around in a government car after knocking off work.

"The first thing I do when I get home is to change into civilian clothes, and if I have to go out I use my own car," he said.

He is critical of Mphephu's government which opted for independence in 1979. He described the decision as "undemocratic", and last year he appointed a commission of inquiry to probe Venda's independence.

After the commission reported that the concept was unpopular, Ramushwana branded Mphephu a "dictator and a puppet" and revoked the homeland's autonomy from Pretoria.

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"The commission found that Mphephu's regime was corrupt and that some of his cabinet ministers could not read or write English. The only thing they could do was to sign documents."

However, Ramushwana said although he wanted to retire from politics, he would not do so until his people's destiny was left in the care of a new democratic government in South Africa.

"Anyone who wants to become head of state in Venda, especially during this transitional period, needs his head examined," said Ramushwana.

"But we still keep our ears to the ground to pre-empt any surreptitious mischief."

MAN OF MANY TONGUES ... Venda leader Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana counts ANC president Nelson Mandela among his close friends.

Venda's hospital shows signs of life

Sowetan 23/9/91

(113)

SILOAM Hospital, situated in the Nzhelele valley of Venda, has been limping along for a year.

It suffered, so to speak, from an overdose of immature political activism that led to an exodus of doctors who felt unwanted because they were Dutch.

The 500-bed hospital is now on its way to recovery, having spent the last eight months in what could only be termed intensive care as the Venda government scoured the world for doctors with minimal and sometimes disappointing qualifications.

Today Siloam, that once-bustling hospital, houses 152 patients who are cared for by six doctors, four of whom come from Zimbabwe, Uganda, Belgium and India.

Nurses who had been transferred to other hospitals have been recalled and the number of patients being seen by doctors is picking up daily. It is a great relief to the nearly 200 000 people served by the hospital.

Political

Siloam had been on the brink of collapse and closure because of what superintendent Dr Gerhadus Martinus Maritz refers to as "undue political influence by people who did not know when to stop".

Trouble started last November when the husband and wife Dutch doctors team, Drs RR Zeilstra and Mr Versteeg, were appointed without the posts being advertised.

This was seen by workers as a contravention of an agreement that all posts would be advertised to ensure that the preponderance of Dutch doctors was minimised.

The fight over the two doctors led to a strike that strained relationships between doctors and nurses, paramedical staff and general workers,

Focus

By MATHATHA TSEDU in Venda

represented by the workers' committee.

At the centre of it all was the then superintendent, Dr E Helms, who had been working at the hospital for 30 years.

He was accused by the workers' committee of being autocratic and of using the Dutch doctors as a shield when he was confronted about his attitudes.

Following a decision by the workers, the committee called on Helms to resign. In the heat of the strike that followed the appointment of the two other Dutch doctors, confrontation became the order of the day.

Doctors' rooms were invaded by workers who slashed chairs and dabbed slogans calling on all Dutch doctors to go. And when, at the end of April, all the Dutch doctors, including Helms and his wife, left, only Maritz, a South African, remained.

It was at this point that the reality of the demands by the committee came home to everyone.

The hospital ceased to function. Patients were seen by nurses with community health training and only the very serious were sent to Maritz.

Many were transferred to other hospitals. Several died in the process and accident victims died in the hospital grounds for lack of proper attention.

Although nurses and other workers had gone back to work, they could not function without doctors.

Nurses were transferred to other hospitals to help with overloads. The collective agony and pain of the community was widespread.

Sixteen workers' committee members were suspended and eventually charged with sabotage. They pleaded guilty in the Venda Supreme Court last month and were fined R1 000 each or one year imprisonment suspended for five years.

Sowetan visited the hospital last week and spoke to Maritz and workers' committee members.

Maritz said the situation had improved and fewer patients were being transferred to other hospitals.

He said the workers' committee was no longer operating officially although it had not been banned.

The hospital was putting together its own committee to facilitate communication as this had been one of the major lessons of the crisis.

Asked what lessons the hospital had learned from the crisis, Maritz said:

"The thing is there was a lot of political influence from many quarters. The people involved in the strike did not know when and where to stop once they started. They just went on and on and closed the hospital, leaving people suffering.

"Political aspirations were pursued to the extent where families and the community were dispossessed by it, when these people said doctors should go, they thought other doctors would just appear.

"This was a very immature way of handling a very delicate issue such as a health facility. One only hopes those responsible have learnt their lesson."

A member of the workers' committee, who is still working at the hospital, said the committee had ceased to exist. He had a similar view to Maritz on the lessons of the strike.

"I think the biggest lesson for us in the WC has been that a strike or sit-in or tools down can only achieve few things while in the process you lose a lot.

"Our own community suffered in this matter and if we are to find ourselves faced with a similar situation, I think we will think twice about other solutions without ever going on strike," he said.

Suspended

However, Mr David Nyambeni, the committee's secretary, who is one of the suspended and convicted workers, had a different view.

He felt that the committee had not done anything wrong and, given the same set of circumstances, would do the same thing again.

Nyambeni said the other committee member was entitled to his views but confirmed that the committee presently existed only "in principle". He blamed the presence of police and soldiers on the hospital premises for the laxity in activities.

The general view among people in the area and patients at the hospital is that the workers' committee had been wrong to put people's lives at stake over its demands.

It is a lesson that many hope has been learnt not only by the Siloam Hospital workers, but by people in essential services, such as teachers.

Venda varsity opens R14-m library today

Sowetan 26/9/91

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE University of Venda is to officially open its R14 million library today, the director of public relations and development, Mr RN Kharidzha, announced yesterday.

The library, financed by the Development Bank of South Africa, will be opened by the education councillor in the ruling military junta of Venda, Chief Peter Kutama.

(113)

In a separate announcement, the university also announced that its convocation would meet on October 26 at the Senate Chamber.

The convocation meeting would end with a dinner which would hear recently returned ANC operative, Dr Allen Budeli, speak on "relevant Education for the New South Africa".

Budeli is presently assistant to the rector of the University of the North.

All previous graduates of Univen are invited and should confirm their participation and raise matters they would like to have on the agenda by contacting convocation secretary Mr TP Nyelisani at (015581) 21071/9 Ext 2443 and 2114.

Venda library opens

(113)

The new library at the University of Venda, built at a cost of R14 million, is to be opened officially today by P F Kutama, Councillor for Education and Culture in Venda. Star 26/9/91

Students wreck library opening

(113)

C/Press 29/9/91

CP Correspondent

STUDENTS disrupted the opening of the R14-million library at the University of Venda this week, at which a senior Venda Government official was to speak.

They said they did it "to deny government officials the pleasure of nice talks about the development in the area while the education chiefs were unable, or unwilling, to solve the students' demands at Venda College of Education".

The function, scheduled to be addressed by the chancellor of education and culture, Chief Peter Kutana, was aborted once students stormed the hall, overturning the tables.

No violent incidents were reported and some guests were whisked away from the chanting students.

The students were demanding the reinstatement of 12 student representative council members of the college.

The entire student body was suspended by the college authorities last June following a boycott and allegations that students assaulted lecturers.

Azapo, ANC vie for rural north

Sowetan 7/10/91

By MATHATHA TSEDU (113)

THE battle for the hearts and minds of the rural north is on.

This weekend, the presidents of the ANC, Mr Nelson Mandela, and Azapo, Mr Pandelani Nefolovhodwe, addressed meetings and rallies of the organisations deep in the rural areas of the Northern Transvaal.

And the message was almost the same: "Support us, we are fighting for your interests."

Nefolovhodwe addressed a symposium on unemployment and job creation at the University of Venda, Thohoyandou.

On Saturday he addressed a gathering of members of the Black Conciousness Movement in Pietersburg.

Mandela addressed a meeting of chiefs in Lebowakgomo, saying the ANC supported the concept of chieftaincy and would not abolish it if it came to power.

Soldiers out of politics – Azapo

HOMELAND military juntas should stay in the barracks and out of politics, Azapo president Pandelani Nefolovhodwe said in Venda this week.

Speaking at a symposium on the unemployment crisis held at the University of Venda, Nefolovhodwe said: "The military juntas were installed by the Pretoria regime to bluff our people."

113

APRIL 6/10/91.

Chief's wings clipped in Venda

(113)

VENDA military ruler Gabriel Ramushwana has abolished the position of the paramount chieftainship in the bantustan. C|Pen 13|10|91

Ramushwana said his government had also abolished the council of chiefs, following the findings of a commission of inquiry set up after a bloodless coup, which toppled President Frank Ravele.

ber 28 1991

No exams for SRC members

(113)

Sowetan 28/10/91

SIX Student Representative Council members at the Venda College of Education will not sit for end-of-year examinations following an assault on two lecturers.

The entire 12-person SRC was initially suspended from classes in June after lecturers Mrs Ina Strydom and Mr Barend Verster had been assaulted.

SRC chairman Mr Patrick Mamusiane was later convicted in the Thohoyandou magistrate's court of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

A college hearing determined that six SRC members would be readmitted to the college and allowed to sit for examinations beginning on November 4, a college spokesman said.

By DON SEOKANE

He said of the six students not readmitted, two could reapply for admission next year as their suspension expires on December 31.

"The suspensions of three other members of the SRC have been sustained and higher authorities of the college will review their case. If upheld, they might be expelled from the college altogether," the spokesman said.

No decision was taken on the remaining suspended student, who had not appeared before the hearing. The hearing followed a failed attempt by the SRC members to secure a court ruling ordering their reinstatement.

Row over Press at Venda inquiry

(113)

Sowetan 1/11/91

By MATHATHA TSEDU

A MEMBER of the disciplinary committee hearing allegations of corruption against senior officials of Agriven yesterday recused himself after the chairman declined to evict the Press.

The drama started after two reporters walked into the hearing at the Agriven head office at Thohoyandou while suspended chief executive officer Mr Pieter Oosthuisen was testifying.

Oosthuisen, facing 25 charges of financial irregularities involving about R29 million, asked committee chairman Mr MC Motimele, whether outsiders were allowed to be at the hearing.

Motimele said the hearing was public and people were free to attend.

He said suspended assistant chief executive officer Mr AM Mamburu had raised the same issue on Wednesday when media representatives attended and was told the sittings were open.

Brigadier

"There seems to be an impression among some people that this committee is answerable to some colonel or brigadier in government.

"I want to make it absolutely clear that we are an independent committee and we take instructions from no colonel or brigadier.

"We have nothing to hide and we are not going to sit behind closed doors doing our inquiry in the dark. The gentlemen from the media are welcome and you are advised to proceed with your evidence," Motimele said.

Mr AL TerreBlanche, a disciplinary committee member hearing the allegations, who is also a member of the Agriven board of directors, then interrupted, saying he had not been present the previous day when the hearing deliberated on the issue of the presence of the media.

He asked for an adjournment for the committee to discuss the issue but Motimele said this was unnecessary.

TerreBlanche then said he would have to ask to be recused because while he had nothing against an open hearing, he felt that the media had to get their statements from Colonel Brian du Toit at the office of the military junta ruling Venda.

"You are free to recuse yourself but the committee will continue. As I said we are not answerable to any colonel or brigadier," Motimele said.

Ambassador from Finland meets FW

THE new Finnish ambassador to South Africa, Mr Karl Ekblom, presented his credentials to State President FW de Klerk in Pretoria yesterday morning.

Ekblom said the message behind his appointment was one of trust in the irreversibility of the process of transition towards a new South Africa.

To encourage the process Finland had first lifted "people-to-people" sanctions, then trade sanctions and now diplomatic sanctions so that relations have been raised to full ambassadorial level.

De Klerk gave him the assurance that the process was irreversible. - *Sapa.* Sowetan 6/11/91

Students praised

By ALI MPHAKI Sowetan 6/11/91

THE Azanian Students Convention last night praised all students and pupils for their "commendable" behaviour during the two-day anti-VAT strike.

No nasty incidents involving pupils were reported nationwide from observations made by the organisation.

In a statement Azasco said: "We wish to thank you for studying and writing examinations and staying well behaved. The whole oppressed people are proud of you."

Police unhappy over whites' influx

Sowetan 6/11/91 (113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU
Northern Transvaal Bureau

A LARGE section of the Venda police force are disgruntled over a massive influx of white officers who have taken over senior positions since the coup last year.

Police officers who spoke to the *Sowetan* said white officers hold meetings in which blacks are not welcome.

They said white officers regularly reopen departmental hearings in which a black officer had presided and, in almost all cases, overturn the earlier verdict.

In a statement, the disgruntled officers said: "The old regime was corrupt but at least they promoted blacks to senior positions. We had blacks heading the force and all other sections.

"Since the military coup, the commissioner is white and many sections are now headed by whites. They see themselves as above us and they use SAP regulations even where these may differ from the Venda police statute.

"They hold their own meetings and still retain their SAP appointment cards. While we agree that there is a new democratic country about to happen, we do not think that should be used to bring back white police officers at the expense of black policemen"

The police councillor in the ruling military junta, Major-General Tshamaano Gerson Ramabulana, responded that he was not aware of any complaints. He called on dissatisfied officers to use official channels of communication or see him personally.

Ramabulana also said police training and promotions were being streamlined in preparation for the reintegration of the Venda police into the SAP.

"You know that many people were just promoted and when the coup happened we discovered many police officers who had committed crimes for which they should have been dismissed or disciplined. These people have been brought here to help with that but if there are specific complaints against them, my door is open," he said.

Military council chairman Brigadier Gabriel Mutheiwana Ramushwana has previously said that white officers would be appointed to instill discipline into the police force.

Asked about his preference for whites over blacks - he has also said he wanted whites to head finance and justice ministries - Ramushwana said there was a shortage of qualified blacks in the area.

Violence claims 1 000 lives

Workers

'Kangaroo court tried me'

C/Press 10/11/91

By MOSS MAMAILA

A VENDA woman and one of her co-accused were convicted and sentenced to death by a kangaroo court for the ritual killing of a 35-year-old woman.

This unfolded this week in the Venda Supreme Court during the trial of 14 people charged with the muti killing of Masindi Ngunubu between February 26 and 28 1989.

One of the accused, Masindi Manyatsha, 30, told the court she was tried by a "group of comrades" who sentenced her and one of her co-accused to death.

Confirming this, co-accused Tshinakawo Ngunubu, 33, said: "Had police not arrived, the comrades would have set me alight as they had already placed a tyre around my neck."

Manyatsha said they were taken to the police station. However, the rescue turned sour when, they claimed, police severely tortured them, forcing them to make confessions. (113)

According to the alleged confession, one of the 14 accused, Chris Mphahuli, 33, struck the deceased with the blunt part of an axe. Another accused, Mundhedzi Masenya, 38, cut the deceased's breasts while co-accused Johannes Tshifura, also 38, cut part of her one arm.

Manyatsha said police subjected her to electric shocks forcing her to admit participating in the ritual murder.

Officials stripped of 3 degrees

Sowetan 13/11/91 (113)

THE Univesity of Venda has withdrawn three degrees conferred on two senior government officials who cheated during examinations.

University of Venda public relations officer Mr Rufus Kharidzha said yesterday the senate had decided to withdraw a Masters Degree in education conferred on the director-general for public works, Mr EBT Ravele.

The senate also stripped the homeland's former director-general of justice, Mr Samson Muthige, of two law degrees - Bachelor of Juris and Bachelor of Laws.

Ravele, who was found to have copied a published dissertation, has been barred from enrolling at the university in future.

Kharidzha said Ravele's degree had been withdrawn and certificates of good conduct issued earlier to him revoked.

By DON SEOKANE

Muthige, who was suspended and charged with fraud, was found to have received six examination papers for his law degree prior to the exams.

In evidence in court, where he was found guilty of fraudulent possesion of examination papers, it was revealed that he had been given the papers by Mrs Getrude Kiersch, who worked in the examination section, in return for the expulsion of her husband, Mr Robert Kiersch.

Kiersch, a state attorney under Mathige, was expelled after the papers were delivered.

A spokesman for the Venda government, Colonel Brian du Toit, said it was not clear whether action would be taken against Ravele.

Confusion over appeal against acting chief

Sowetan 25/11/91

(113)

AN appeal by the Tshivhase Royal Council and Mr Kennedy Tshivhase against the appointment of an acting chief of the tribe has been postponed by the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein.

The delay was caused by the lodging of a second appeal, but no indication had been received by the court whether to hear the two cases together - and the second appeal has not yet been registered on the court roll.

Last week's case concerned a judgment by the Chief Justice of Venda, Mr DHJ le Roux, which rejected a temporary interdict against acting tribal chief Mr JS Tshivhase and the Tshivhase Local Council.

Interdict rejected

Each party was ordered to pay its own costs, but it was ordered that any award for costs against the TRC were to be taken as an award against the TRC and Mr Gilbert Ligege - described as chairman of the TRC - as there was doubt whether there was an institution named the Tshivhase Royal Council.

The rejected interdict, granted on August 20 1986, was against the installation of JS Tshivhase as chief of the Tshivhase tribe.

Elected chief

The TRC alleged the tribe already had a duly elected chief - Mr Kennedy Tshivhase - who was installed in 1970 at seven years of age after the death of his father.

Prince Thohoyandou Tshivhase, who had been chief of the tribe, died in a motor accident in 1966. Mr JS Tshivhase, his brother, was appointed acting chief until Kennedy came of age, but it was alleged the latter refused to vacate the position.

Mr Justice le Roux dismissed the charges when he held that no adequate grounds had been shown why Mr JS Tshivhase should not be chief. - *Sapa.*

Exam disasters behind Venda college arson?

CP Correspondent (113)

VENDA College of Education students have expressed concern that fellow students who have done badly in their final examinations might have been responsible for burning down the college's offices, destroying examination answer sheets.

Other valuable items were also destroyed when the administration offices were burnt last Thursday. Police estimated the damage at R20 000.

"The only logic behind the burning down of the offices is that some students are convinced they did badly in their examinations and have resorted to "acts of sabotage", one student said.

He added it was "very likely" the culprits would be the first to object to any move aimed at rewriting some papers.

Police spokesman Lt Benno de Klerk also conceded that the purpose of the arson attack appeared to be the destruction of answer sheets and not the building itself.

About a month ago, six students – including the SRC president – were expelled after being accused of assaulting lecturers and inciting other students to boycott classes.

Venda gravy train exposed by police

Sowetan 5/12/91

(113)

VENDA'S military ruler, Brigadier Gabriel Mutheiwana Ramushwana, now earns R190 587 a year, or R15 882 a month, following recent salary increases.

SOWETAN Correspondent

According to documents in possession of *Sowetan*, the increases were implemented last month but backdated to July this year. Ramushwana's emoluments are made up of R135 378 annual salary and a R55 209 non-taxable allowance.

Other military council members earn R156 819 a year, or R13 068,25 a month made up of a R119 124 salary, and a R37 695 non-taxable allowance.

Major-General TG Ramabulana, councillor for police, and Major NG Ramaremisa, councillor for internal affairs and manpower, and former police officers who are still civil servants are on a separate scale but they also earn R156 819.

The authenticity of the documents, verified by senior treasury officials, were brought to *Sowetan* by policemen disgruntled that the military council, brought to power in a coup by police and military personnel, was paying itself big salaries while the ordinary soldier and policeman were ignored.

Increases

The policemen said they found it strange that although salary increases for policemen, soldiers, other civil servants and the building of schools and other projects in the bantustan had been stopped, ostensibly because of lack of money, "there is apparently enough to give increases to the new leaders".

Senior bureaucrats such as directors-general, their deputies and assistants, as well as the commissioners of police and prisons, also got hefty raises backdated to July.

The arrears for these officials alone will cost the government R193 354. A director general's salary increases from R129 513 to R135 378 a year, according to a letter from the Commission for Administration seeking treasury approval for the increases.

Salary

Chief government spokesman Colonel Brian du Toit said there were increases for councillors that had not been implemented earlier this year. The present increments were to normalise that situation.

He said although Ramushwana was also chief of defence and councillor for finance, he did not draw a salary for those portfolios.

Cabinet thinktank 'n the bushveld

(304)

BINET will hold its annual *bosberaad* (bush in-
) at an undisclosed venue near Pretoria today
morrow, the State President's office confirmed
lay. Sowetan 5/12/91
lent FW de Klerk, the Cabinet, Deputy Min-
l the four provincial Administrators left for
- where the traditional thinktank is to be
yesterday afternoon following a special
ting in Pretoria.
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South Africa - otherwise known as
were taken at preparatory talks held
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nd negotiations in general.

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ANC pulls out from boycott

Sowetan 6/12/91

(113)

6/12/91

ALTHOUGH the African National Congress in Venda supported a call for a consumer boycott over Christmas, it had withdrawn from a committee formed during the action thanks to "national leadership decisions".

This was said by Mr Shavhani Ramuse-theli, a senior zonal leader of the ANC in the homeland this week.

The boycott was called last Friday by the Azanian People's Organisation and was due to begin on December 16.

Azapo and the Pan Africanist Congress in Nzhelele in Venda, elected a co-ordinating committee to organise the proposed action.

The committee's spokesman, Mr Thomas Masithi, said on Wednesday that the ANC, which had previously agreed to serve on the body, withdrew on Monday night citing "national leadership decisions" as their main reason for not participating.

Ramusetheli confirmed the decision: "We are fully supportive of the call but we cannot serve on the committee as this would not be in line with the national decision," he said.

Masithi said his committee would be meeting Louis Trichardt Indian traders shortly to discuss "operational issues, as the town is the major target of our campaign here".

Committees had also been set up in Marble Hall and Nylstroom in the north-eastern Transvaal, while boycotts had already begun in Warmbaths, Duiwelskloof and Phalaborwa in the northern Transvaal.

Azapo regional organiser the Rev Kgotsupo Leputu said on Wednesday there would be a consultative meeting with regional structures of the ANC, PAC, trade union federations and church, taxi and black commerce representatives on Saturday morning on Pietersburg to finalise issues on the boycott. - *Sapa.*

Sowetan

Dave and boycott

12/12/91 (113)

IN a report issued on Monday, *Sapa* quoted Indian Traders Association secretary Mr HA Dave as saying, after a meeting with the Venda Consumer Boycott Committee, that Indian traders in Venda would not be affected by an Azapo-organised boycott of shops over the festive period.

On Tuesday Dave said his organisation had not met the Venda Consumer Boycott Committee and did not know if such a body existed. - *Sapa*

HOMELANDS – VENDA - GENERAL

1992

Venda schools wait for books

Sowetan 16/1/92

By MATHATHA TSEDU

(113)

THOUSANDS of Venda schoolchildren have no stationery or books - more than a week after schools reopened.

The pupils, from primary to high school, are waiting for government supplied books.

The director-general for education in the bantustan, Mr AK Madzaga, confirmed the shortage.

Madzaga said the books ordered from a Cape firm had been sent by goods train. The department had forced the company to stop the goods train along the way and offload the books into trucks, which had started arriving.

The Venda sub-region of the Azanian Students' Movement condemned the "lack of serious planning" by the education authorities and said concern being expressed about the poor state of black education would come to nothing if pupils don't have books.

In Lebowa, where shortages of books have become endemic due to large-scale corruption which led to the loss of more than R98 million in four years, many schools are still waiting for books.

Meanwhile, a teacher broke down and cried at Marobathota on Tuesday after she was told she could not be hired.

The woman, who may not be named, sobbed and said she had been to almost all the schools in the Mamabolo area and could not continue to do so.

She is one of hundreds of newly qualified teachers who are walking the streets looking for jobs.

Meanwhile, Lebowa education spokesman, Mr SF Seroka, said yesterday that only a "negligible number of teachers" had been retired to make room for newly qualifieds.

Seroka was reacting to a story in Sowetan yesterday, where it was reported that over 200 teachers had been forced into retirement.

Seroka said they had reached the retirement age of 65 and 60 years for men and women respectively.

Seroka said no force had been used to get the teachers to retire.

The retired teachers have, however, expressed anger at the move, saying they still wanted to work.

They pointed out that more teachers were needed in black schools to offset the teacher pupil ratio.

Venda rulers pay less than Pretoria

(113)

Sowetan 16/1/92

By MATHATHA TSEDU

CASUAL labourers employed by the Venda government earn R12 a day or R372 a month.

This is less than half what labourers employed by the central Government earn - R25 a day - the deputy director-general of the Venda Public Service Commission, Mr Willie Nemakonde, confirmed yesterday.

The anomally in renumeration is despite public assertions by the homeland's military ruler, Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, that all govenment employees were paid the same wages as central government workers.

The Venda labourers, some of whom have been "temporary" for more than five years, may soon face the chop as the VPSC is investigating how to do away with this large section of employees, Nemakonde said.

Nemakonde denied media reports that more than 3 000 drought relief wokers were to be fired immediately.

He said their wages were not part of the "general revenue of the government. And while their position is also under investigation, there is so far no decision to fire people".

Nemakonde also confirmed that a directive to pay drivers with Code 11 R900 a month in 1987 had been ignored because drivers were usually changed from vehicle to vehicle.

Cumbersome

"We found that it would be cumbersome to manage if a person was paid according to his licence and the vehicle he drove because, when a driver was given a lighter vehicle, it would necessitate that his pay go down and that is illegal.

"Drivers who use the code 11 vehicles work very little hours; sometimes only two days in a week. We would be forced to pay a man lots of money for two days' work."

The discrepancy in wages is particularly important because the coup that brought Ramushwana into power followed demands for parity by civil servants.

Boss caused R12-m loss

Disciplinary hearing finds Agriven chief guilty of negligence and misconduct

CP Correspondent

Cape Times 19/11/92

(113)

THE suspended chief executive of the Venda Agricultural Corporation, Pieter du Toit Oosthuizen, was this week found guilty by a disciplinary hearing of 17 charges of misconduct and negligence which resulted in the corporation losing over R12 million.

In his judgment the chairman of the disciplinary hearing, Advocate McCaps Mothimele, found that Oosthuizen contravened the corporation's regulations – which provide that only Venda companies can be assisted financially – by pumping over R10 million in the form of loans into non-Venda companies.

Agriven's top man, who is suspended with pay, also granted loans to several senior government officials of the toppled Frank Ravhele homeland regime without following proper procedures. As a result, the corporation lost more than R80 000.

The hearing found Oosthuizen kept on investing thousands of rands in a project which was not viable, precipitating a loss of over R500 000.

Oosthuizen also borrowed more than R7 million from financial institutions without the required approval of the Minister.

Oosthuizen, who had been accused of racism, failed to take any disciplinary steps against a white official who had referred to a black colleague as a "shit seeker".

In mitigation, Oosthuizen showed the committee two bunches of grapes, saying: "This is a strange way of saying thank you. I can only say I have given my best in my 23 years in Venda, my successful 23 years ended badly because of politics."

The prosecutor, Advocate N J Coetzee, said Oosthuizen should be dismissed and losses recovered from him.

ANC men in Venda's Codesa team

THE ANC in Venda has dismissed as untrue allegations that its membership was dissatisfied about the organisation's inclusion in the delegation to represent the homeland at Codesa.

ANC Sibasa branch chairman Mogwedzha Mthathuli said the false rumours were being circulated by ill-informed people. C|PRESS 19/1/92

Asked about the involvement of ANC members in the homeland delegation, Mthathuli said democracy had taken its course (113)

"(General Gabriel) Ramushwana had said he wanted to be democratic, and that people should elect the delegation, and by co-incidence ANC members were elected – including myself," he said.

Venda water sellers coin it

(113)

C/Press 29/1/92

CP Correspondent

WATER is fast becoming an expensive commodity in Venda, with villagers paying up to R2 for 25 litres.

Although the critical shortage of water has been caused by drought which has left most of the rivers and dams dry, villagers have also accused the homeland regime of poor planning.

In Mukula village about 20 km from Thohoyandou, for example, water is sold at R1 for 25 litres by truck owners who travel more than 10 km to fetch supplies. Others charge R2 for 25 litres.

Makwarela Civic Association vice president Thivhilaeli Mutobvu slammed the homeland administration for failing to assist villagers.

"While water taps in the villages are always empty, millions of litres are used to water grass in Thohoyandou."

Mutobvu added that the authorities were not sensitive to the needs of the people.

However, government spokesman Lt Col Brian du Toit said there is a definite attempt to supply people with water.

"I was informed that in certain areas water is being supplied by government trucks," he said.

A parched Venda is hit by a water shortage

(113)

Sowetan 28/1/92

By DON SEOKANE

VENDA has been hard hit by drought with villagers in the homeland paying up to R2 for 25 litres of water.

The water shortage is the result of poor rainfall and apparently Venda is not alone in the desperate battle against drought.

Some parts of Lebowa and Gazankulu are also affected. At Namakgale near Phalaborwa, water restrictions are already in force, with local inhabitants prohibited from using hose pipes to water lawns or gardens. Watering is only done by hand at prescribed times.

The Nzhelele river in Venda, which is a major source of water supply to a number of villages and irrigation schemes, has stopped flowing and water levels in other dams in the homeland have been drastically reduced.

At a village outside Venda's capital, Thohoyandou, where water shortage has reached alarming proportions, 25 litres of water cost R2 from enterprising truck owners who have found another way of doing business.

The homeland's authorities have urged citizens to use water sparingly as the situation is rapidly becoming extremely critical.

The authorities confirmed that most villages were experiencing a critical water shortage and that water restrictions were not improving the situation.

A spokesman for the Department of Works said the situation was so severe that many irrigations schemes had been abandoned and a certain irrigation scheme at Mphaila had not been working for the past two years.

Venda calls for 'obvious choice'

ARG 12/2/92

JOHANNESBURG. — An interim government must be constituted within six months and must have a life-span of not more than 18 months, the Venda government has said.

Venda was submitting its proposals yesterday to Working Group Three on Transitional Government at Codesa.

"Only an interim government becomes an obvious choice not as an end in itself but as a process towards a new constitution which will usher in a new political dispensation," the Venda government said.

It also recommended that the TBVC states and self-governing states be dissolved.

The Ciskei Government said any interim arrangements must not pre-determine the nature of the ultimate outcome of Codesa.

It emphasised that the Ciskei was a constitutionally independent and soverign state.

"Re-incorporation and transfer of authority can only take place along a constitutional pathway."

All interim and final arrangments for transfer of authority should be arrived at constitutionally. "These arrangements should not be on the basis of arbitrary selection of participants nor leave room for domination of any group or abuse of power." — Sapa.

Activists call for Ligege's dismissal

(113)

Sowetan 10/2/92

By MATHATHA TSEDU

VENDA's councillor for agriculture, Headman Gilbert Ligege, has clashed with activists in the area who have now called for his immediate dismissal.

In a petition handed to a representative of military council leader Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana last Thursday, 13 organisations, including the ANC, the Venda National Party, Sabta and church organisations, have accused Ligege of arrogance and disrespect.

The petition follows a meeting held at Beuster on February 4 at which the organisations accused him of being: "terribly undemocratic".

Ligege is alleged to have been a champion of opposition politics during the deposed government of Mr Frank Ravele. He could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Murder accused freed

CP Correspondent C/Press 16/2/92

A TRIAL in which 14 people were charged with the ritual murder of a 35-year-old woman ended dramatically this week when all the accused were acquitted.

Venda supreme court Judge DJ Le Roux found that the State had relied heavily on the confessions made by some of the accused. (113)

However, the confessions had discrepancies and contradicted the medical report.

The court was earlier told that a group of "comrades" collected some of the accused and took them to a school where they tortured them throughout the night to force them to admit killing Masindi Ngunubu.

After making detailed confessions about the killing, the accused were taken to the headman's kraal where they were tried by a kangaroo court.

The kangaroo court condemned some of the accused to death but police rescued them and arrested them for murdering Ngunubu.

Subsequently, the five women and nine men – including the local headman and a businessman – were discharged.

Askari's arms plan misfires

Cipres 16/2/92 (113)

By MOSS MAMAILA

AN Askari posing as an arms dealer tried to sell weapons to returned MK exile Mashudu Mphaphulu, but was met by an ANC "reception committee" when he turned up for a meeting.

He was handed over to Venda police.

Venda police spokesman Lt Benno de Klerk confirmed that the Askari, "Richard", was attached to an SAP special unit concentrating on arms smuggling from Zimbabwe.

Mphaphuli, who returned to South Africa last year after 10 years in exile, said: "I suspected he was working for the police because he was driving an expensive car with fake numberplates.

"I later found out from documents in his car that his real name was Phillip Selepe, and he was attached to the SAP Mechanical Training centre in Benoni."

Mphaphuli said "Richard" was the third special operative who had been assigned to catch him for arms smuggling and he often feared for his life.

Lt de Klerk said that if the SAP wanted to investigate in Venda, they had to first communicate with the local police, but this had not been done.

Who's is Venda's mystery bomber?

Sowetan 17/2/92

(113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

WHO planted the bomb that wrecked the offices of the Venda department of health at Thohoyandou five days before the April 5 1990 coup?

No one knows - or so it seems. And, according to Venda government spokesman Colonel Brian du Toit, investigations into the mystery bombing have been suspended because of a lack of evidence.

He told the *Sowetan* that forensic tests had failed to determine even the type of explosives used.

But a senior police source said investigations had pointed to two white soldiers, one a senior member of the Venda Defence Force, and the other a seconded SADF soldier.

The source said the two, who cannot be named, had allegedly broken into an armoury at Manenu base earlier the same day and removed guns, ammunition and explosives.

Controversial

Hours later, several explosions ripped through Thohoyandou, damaging the health department offices, several electrical sub-stations and a bottle store owned by controversial politician Mr AA Tshivhase.

The source said the explosions seemed to have been timed to create the excuse for the takeover of government which came five days after the explosions.

He said the two soldiers allegedly involved in the break-in had been transferred after police investigations had pointed to their possible involvement in the blast.

There were widespread allegations at the time of the coup that it had been planned by Pretoria in an attempt to ensure that no hostile forces took over the homeland.

> ‘It will remain my secret until I die’

It was also said at the time that the takeover was to ensure that whites had overall control of sensitive posts in the VDF, the police force and the civil service.

Du Toit confirmed the break-in at Manenu, saying shotguns and ammunition had been removed after locks were taken out and later replaced.

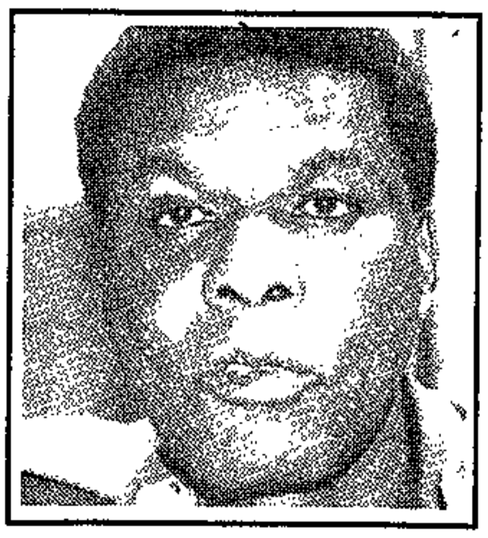
He said no explosives had been removed from the base, and denied that there was any link between the explosions and the burglary.

He said two men, one a senior VDF base commander, had been implicated in the break-in. He said the two had since left Venda.

He said the commander of the base had resigned from the VDF. He identified the other man as an SADF national serviceman who had since left because he was on secondment.

The Attorney-General had declined to prosecute the two soldiers due to lack of evidence, Du Toit said.

Du Toit said forensic laboratory tests conducted on exhibits in Pretoria had failed to ascertain what type of explosives were used in the attack. No one was injured in the blast.



GABRIEL RAMUSHWANA

He said the failure to determine the type of explosives used showed that those responsible ensured that the explosives could not be detected or traced, implying highly trained people were involved.

The bomb blast came at the height of tension which saw policemen, prison warders, nurses and civil servants rebelling against the civilian regime in the homeland.

The bloodless coup brought the army into power and placed the then Colonel Gabriel Ramushwana at the helm of the quasi-independent state.

The army was at that time the only security apparatus that had not been affected by the rebellion.

With all senior posts in the VDF held by whites - there is no black officer heading any base or significant section - there is suspicion that the coup was planned or at the very least carried out with the explicit concurrence of the white senior VDF soldiers and the then resident SADF contingent.

Ramushwana drove from Pretoria a day before the coup, where he had been attending an SADF course.

At the time, Ramushwana said he had been summoned back from Pretoria, but has steadfastly refused to say by whom.

In an interview last year, Ramushwana said the planning and execution of the coup would remain his "secret until I die".

The police assertion that the bomb attack was carried out by the VDF to create room for the coup comes amid allegations by Conservative Party deputy leader Dr Ferdie Hartzenberg that documents from National Intelligence Service showed that the Ciskei coup was planned by Military Intelligence.

Infiltrated

The Venda coup somehow eased tension in the area and has also led to accusations that whites had been infiltrated back into many influential positions in the army, police and the civil service.

Police Commissioner-General J Genis, who was recalled from pension in the SAP and brought in to head the force after the coup, is to retire again at the end of this month.

Reliable sources this week said Ramushwana had already asked Pretoria for a white replacement.

The posts of councillor for justice and finance remain vacant to date, with Ramushwana saying he preferred to have whites heading those departments.

'Venda cops aided Askari'

Sowetan 17/2/92

By MATHATHA TSEDU

(113)

THE African National Congress has accused the Venda police of releasing an alleged Askari member who was handed to them after he allegedly tried to abduct a former exile.

ANC sub-regional secretary in Venda, Mr Eddy Managa, said the alleged Askari had introduced himself as "Richard" when he went to former Radio Freedom announcer Mr Mashudu Mphaphuli at Makwarela township, Sibasa.

Askaris are former ANC guerillas allegedly on the government's payroll.

Mphaphuli, however, suspected Richard of being a police spy after the alleged Askari had said he was selling guns, diamonds and dagga.

He was later able to ascertain that "Richard's" vehicle was registered in the name of the police.

Mphaphuli told *Sowetan* that the man had insisted that they go to various places together where he would show him the guns he was selling.

He said: "I could see that the idea was to abduct me."

After consultations with other ANC members, a trap was laid for "Richard" on January 29.

"He denied being an Askari and pleaded with us to let him go," Mphaphuli said. We later called the police who took him away".

Managa said police later released him after he had made a call to Louis Trichardt and spoke to a senior police officer who travelled to Thohoyandou to release him.

According to Managa police commissioner General J Genis confirmed to the ANC that the man was a member of the SAP.

WE CAN DO IT

envy of Venda schools

Sowetan 19/2/92

(113)

FOCUS EDUCATION

buildingor pick up papers," Ramutsindela says.

He is quick to accept that his school has good facilities. It has laboratories for science and biology which are the envy of all schools in the region. This is because Mbilwi was started as a school specialising in science subjects.

While the school had 142 matriculants in 1982, the numbers have been dwindling, with only 48 matric pupils this year.

With a total enrolment of 417, the school has a staff of 17, 14 of whom have university degrees.

Ramutsindela says the numbers are being kept low because of limited accommodation.

"We are also very selective and only take pupils with A passes and B's in Standard 6. We also do not take any outside pupils into Std 10," he says.

Asked about pupil power and the now growing teacher power, Ramutsindela says the school has a popularly elected SRC.

This is confirmed by SRC president Lufuno Matsila, who says there is "extreme cooperation between pupils and teachers".

Ramutsindela says school starts at 7.35am and lessons run until 1.30pm. After a 30-minute lunch break, classes resume at 2pm and last until 3.30pm.

Wednesday afternoons are set aside for extramural activities but even then, thirty minutes is spent on study before training starts.

Religious fundis can choose to go for Students' Christian Movement activities while sports stars have their fun.

But the theft plague that has hit Soweto schools and left many of them denuded of even bare essentials such as roofs and doors also troubles science master, Ungandan-born, Mr JK Kigozi.

He shakes with anger as he speaks of valuable laboratory instruments such as digital measuring scales costing more than R4 000 that were taken.

The school's television set and video machine were also stolen and their replacements also taken.

The school intended buying a computer to help with studies but these thefts are discouraging. Kigozi is, however, working on a "chemical reception" for anyone who breaks into his laboratory again.

"I am working on something and you will come back here to write the story of the thief who nearly got away with it," he said.

Talking to pupils was also refreshing. They vow they will score a 100 percent this year.

It is this competitive attitude among the pupils, coupled with the dedication of the staff and the available resources, that probably accounts for the good results that have become the hallmark of Mbilwi.

Don't miss tomorrow's Sowetan for the other side of the coin in the battle to get things right at Tladi Technical High School.

Mbilwi science teacher Mr JK Kigozi with his students in the laboratory.

WE CAN DO IT

Mbilwi is the

Sowetan 19/2/92 (113)

Mbilwi Senior Secondary School in Sibasa, Venda, which was started in 1979 as a school catering for the sciences, has been recording high pass rates amid the rising matric crisis. Last year the school had three of the seven distinction passes recorded by Department of Education and Training schools, and this is something of which the school is understandably proud. MATHATHA TSEDU reports.

THERE are no athletics trophies in the office of the principal of Mbilwi Senior Secondary School in Sibasa, Venda.

And that is not because the pupils there are slow runners. It is because they are winning other types of trophies.

Mbilwi, which started in 1979 and specialises in science subjects, last year scored three of seven distinction passes in matric obtained by Department of Education and Training pupils throughout the country.

In a year when the national percentage pass was just over 35 percent with some schools recording a 100 percent failure rate, Mbilwi's 98,2 percent pass is something which the school can be justly proud.

As one walks into principal Mr JN Ramutsindela's office, the lack of athletics trophies becomes clear when one observes the array of shields won by pupils for achievements in mathematics and the sciences subjects.

Mr JN Ramubindela, principal of Mbilwi Senior Secondary School.

Mbilwi was last year voted the best DET school which produced the most students to continue with science studies at universities and technikons.

For this, the school was awarded R30 000 by the Foundation for Research Development to be used to upgrade the school's laboratories.

It has also won the annual Science Olympiad in the region every year, leading to complaints by other schools that the prize has become the property of Mbilwi.

Over the past three years, as the crisis in black matric results worsened, Mbilwi has been climbing the ladder of success each year.

In 1989, 76 pupils sat for the matric exams and 68 obtained university entrance passes, four school-leaving passes with only four failures. Of those who passed, seven obtained an aggregate B symbol, 14 received C and 41 D symbols.

In 1990, 62 pupils sat for the exams and 56 obtained university entrance passes. Of these two obtained A, 4 B, 14 C and 31 D symbols.

Last year, 56 wrote the exams and 52 obtained university passes. Three of them received A passes, eight Bs, 12 Cs and 24 Ds.

Mbilwi is the envy of many schools in the area and throughout the country. But what is its magic formula for success?

Says Ramutsindela: "It is dedication and hard work all round."

"The teachers are very dedicated to their work and so are our pupils.

"We are also very strict on discipline and if a pupil is uncooperative, we bring in the parents to help.

"We sometimes use corporal punishment, but this is rare.

"Those pupils who are guilty of breaking the rules are punished by being made to clean the school

P.T.O.

7 escape petrol bomb attack

Sowetan 24/2/92

(113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

A MOTHER and her six children escaped a fiery death at Makwarela township in Sibasa, Venda, on Friday when a petrol bomb thrown at their wooden shack exploded and ignited.

A shaken Mrs Rosinah Ramathavha (40), who is a neighbour of returned ANC guerilla Mr Mashudu Mphaphuli, said yesterday she could not understand why anyone should want to harm her.

Last month Mphaphuli survived an alleged abduction attempt by askaris.

Ramathavha said she was awoken at 2.55am by the sound of falling glass.

"When I opened my eyes, I saw a fire outside and the explosion when the bottle lid went off.

"I could hear a car engine running outside and I screamed and called Mphaphuli.

"I could not go out for fear that the people may be standing there waiting to kill me. The car drove off as I screamed," she said.

Sowetan revealed last week that Mphaphuli had been approached by a policeman posing as an arms dealer.

After the man was apprehended and questioned by ANC members, he was handed to the Venda police who later released him, saying he was a member of the South African Police attached to a special unit.

Mphaphuli, who returned to the country last August, said he was convinced the attackers were part of an Askari group which had missed his shack and bombed the wrong one.

It could not be established yesterday whether any arrests have been made.

TOTAL EXCHEQUER RECEIPTS

(R million)

	1987/88	% growth	1988/89	%growth	1989/90	%growth	1990/91	%growth	1991/92	%growth
Apr-Jun	7 291	5,9%	8 773	20,3%	11 986	36,6%	14 302	19,3%	14 399	0,7%
Jul-Sep	10 445	18,3%	13 236	26,7%	16 850	27,3%	18 969	12,6%	20 517	8,2%
Oct-Dec	9 270	8,9%	12 298	32,7%	14 202	15,5%	15 747	10,9%	17 851	13,4%
Jan-Mar	10 617	6,8%	13 904	31,0%	17 963	29,2%	17 776	−1,0%		
Total	37 623	10,2%	48 210	28,1%	61 000	26,5%	66 794	9,5%		

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ISSUES AND RECEIPTS

(R million)

	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92
Apr-Jun	4 653	4 206	4 409	3 176	6 691
Jul-Sep	539	(262)	(1 104)	(615)	547
Oct-Dec	2 076	639	1 556	1 111	2 428
Jan-Mar	3 049	3 811	(63)	3 930	
Total	10 317	8 394	4 798	7 602	

( )Surplus

+Deficit

TABLE 2

Exchequer issues and receipts (cumulative)

This table has been compiled from the Statements of Receipts in and Transfers from the Exchequer Account published monthly. Any analysis of these statements should bear in mind that they are shown on a cash flow basis, i.e.:

(a) Total Exchequer issues:

Total issues do not represent actual expenditure. Late issues and surrenders in respect of a specific fiscal year result in total issues (as shown here) differing from the actual expenditure figures as shown in the Budgetary documentation.

(b) Total exchequer receipts:

The receipts for month X do not include amounts in transit for that month, but include those in transit for month (X-1). This means that the April figure of each fiscal year includes the "in transit" figure for March (the previous fiscal year).

Proceeds from privatisation, other capital revenue and loans are excluded from these figures.

(c) Difference between issues and receipts

As a result of (a) and (b) this does not represent the actual deficit before borrowing.

TOTAL EXCHEQUER ISSUES (cumulative)

(R million)

Period	1987/88	% growth	1988/89	%growth	1989/90	%growth	1990/91	%growth	1991/92
April to:									
Jun	11 944	18,5%	12 979	8,7%	16 395	26,3%	17 478	6,6%	21 089
Sep	22 927	20,3%	25 952	13,2%	32 141	23,8%	35 832	11,5%	42 154
Dec	34 274	21,3%	38 889	13,5%	47 899	23,2%	52 690	10,0%	62 433
Mar	47 940	18,6%	56 604	18,1%	65 799	16,2%	74 396	13,1%	

TOTAL EXCHEQUER RECEIPTS (cumulative)

(R million)

Period	1987/88	% growth	1988/89	%growth	1989/90	%growth	1990/91	%growth	1991/92
April to:									
Jun	7 291	5,9%	8 773	20,3%	11 986	36,6%	14 302	19,3%	14 399
Sep	17 736	12,9%	22 008	24,1%	28 836	31,0%	33 271	15,4%	34 916
Dec	27 006	11,8%	34 306	27,0%	43 038	25,5%	49 018	13,9%	52 767
Mar	37 623	11,5%	48 210	28,1%	61 000	26 5%	66 794	9,5%	

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ISSUES AND RECEIPTS

(R million)

	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92
April to:					
Jun	4 653	4 206	4 409	3 176	6 691
Sep	5 192	3 944	3 305	2 561	7 238
Dec	7 268	4 583	4 861	3 672	9 666
Mar	10 317	8 394	4 798	7 602	

Guarantees/sureties: Ciskei

81. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether any guarantees or sureties were given directly or indirectly by the Government or any Department or agency of the Government to any person or organization for (a) loans granted, (b) lines of credit granted and (c) other specified financial services rendered to (i) the Government of, (ii) any Government Department of, (iii) a development corporation in and (iv) any other specified person or organization in Ciskei in the 1990-91 financial year; if so,

(2) (a) what amounts were involved in each case and (b) what was the total amount outstanding in terms of such guarantees or sureties as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

(3) whether foreign currencies are involved in any of these guarantees or sureties; if so, (a) what currencies, (b) how much is involved and (c) who is responsible for bearing the potential cost of exchange rate fluctuations?

B226E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) No.

(b) Yes, a guarantee in respect of overdraft facilities to the Government of Ciskei.

(c) No.

(2) (a) R262 Million.

(b) R262 Million.

(3) No

(a), (b) and (c) fall away.

Guarantees/sureties: Venda

82. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether any guarantees or sureties were given directly or indirectly by the Government or any Department or agency of the Government to any person or organization for (a) loans granted, (b) lines of credit granted and (c) other specified financial services rendered to (i) the Government of, (ii) any government Department of, (iii) a development corporation in and (iv) any other specified person or organization in Venda in the 1990-91 financial year; if so,

continue →

(2) (a) what amounts were involved in each case and (b) what was the total amount outstanding in terms of such guarantees or sureties as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

(3) whether foreign currencies are involved in any of these guarantees or sureties; if so, (a) what currencies, (b) how much is involved and (c) who is responsible for bearing the potential cost of exchange rate fluctuations? (113) B227E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) No.

(b) Yes, a guarantee in respect of overdraft facilities to the Government of Venda.

(c) No.

(2) (a) R200 Million

(b) R200 Million.

(3) No.

(a), (b) and (c) fall away.

Guarantees/sureties: Bophuthatswana

83. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether any guarantees or sureties were given directly or indirectly by the Government or any Department or agency of the Government to any person or organization for (a) loans granted, (b) lines of credit granted and (c) other specified financial services rendered to (i) the Government of, (ii) any Government Department of, (iii) a development corporation in and (iv) any other specified person or organization in Bophuthatswana in the 1990-91 financial year; if so,

(2) (a) what amounts were involved in each case and (b) what was the total amount outstanding in terms of such guarantees or sureties as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

(3) whether foreign currencies are involved in any of these guarantees or sureties; if so, (a) what currencies, (b) how much is involved and (c) who is responsible for bearing the potential cost of exchange rate fluctuations? B228E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) No.

(2) and (3) fall away.

Swaniesville: attack on hostel dwellers

85. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether he or the South African Police have been informed of the allegations that the Police aided hostel dwellers in an attack in 1991 on squatters in Swaniesville; if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether an investigation is being conducted into these allegations; if not, why not; if so, what progress has been made;

(3) whether any persons have been (a) arrested and (b) charged in connection with this incident; if not, why not; if so, how many in each case;

(4) whether, on the day of the above attack, a large number of hostel dwellers moved through Swaniesville without being stopped; if so, why were they not stopped?

B230E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes, a full investigation was instituted. There is no evidence that the South African Police was involved in the attack.

(3) (a) 12 persons.

(b) 12 persons were arrested on 28 counts of murder and on 1 count of public violence.

(4) Approximately 200, Zulus with traditional weapons, were stopped approximately 800 meters from Swaniesville on their way to Kagiso. At this stage there was already a group of approximately 1 000 Zulus in Swaniesville.

At the same time, a few thousand blacks gathered at Kagiso with the intention to attack the Zulus. Numerous structures in Swaniesville were on fire at this stage. In an attempt to keep the groups apart, the Police escorted the Zulus past Kagiso to their hostels.

Summer daylight saving

86. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Manpower:

(a) With reference to the reply to Question No 9 on 30 April 1991, what progress has been made in regard to the investigation into the possibility of the introduction of a programme of summer daylight saving and (b) when is it expected that a report on this matter will be made available?

B231E

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

(a) and (b) This matter is being investigated by the President's Council and the Department of Manpower can therefore not answer this question.

Period of time between arrest and sentencing

87. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

(a) What, in respect of persons awaiting trial in prisons, was the average period of time that elapsed between arrest and sentencing calculated as at the last day of each month in 1991 and (b) what was the (i) age and (ii) gender distribution of persons awaiting trial in that year?

B232E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

(a) The precise information cannot be provided to the hon member as it is, *inter alia*, not centrally available and there are various practical problems with the recording of such statistics.

Statistic out of an exercise which was done on 2 January 1991 of all awaiting trial prisoners who were detained in South African prisons on that day, are as follows:

25,7% — 1 day until 14 days
30,5% — 14 days until 1 month
33% — 1 month until 3 months
8,3% — 3 months until 6 months
2,5% — Longer than 6 months

A further spot check at the Johannesburg, Pretoria, Pollsmoor, Witbank, Durban and Port Elizabeth Prisons on 13 February 1992 where a total of 10 999 awaiting trial prisoners were in detention on that day, delivered the following statistical data:

26,33% — 1 day until 14 days
22,48% — 14 days until 1 month
32,74% — 1 month until 3 months
2,16% — 3 months until 6 months
16,29% — Longer than 6 months

(b) (i) and (ii)

As on 31 December 1991.

AGE	MALE	FEMALE
Younger than 20 years	4 559	137
20 Years and younger than 25 years	6 573	233
25 Years and older	11 294	524
TOTAL	22 426	894

GRAND TOTAL: 23 320

Section 29 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) stipulates, *inter alia*, that a person under the age of eighteen years who is accused of having committed an offence shall before his conviction, not be detained in a prison unless his detention is necessary and no suitable place of detention mentioned in the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act No 74 of 1983) is available for his detention. In each such case the particular judicial officer issues a certificate to this effect. In deciding on the suitability of the place of detention, the nature of the offence with which a person is charged is taken into account as well as age, sex, character etc.

A juvenile who is detained in terms of section 29 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959, shall not be permitted to associate with a person over the age of 21 years who is in custody, provided that he may be permitted to associate with such a person in custody who has been charged jointly with him, if the head of the prison is of the opinion that such association will not be detrimental to him. Juveniles are also separated with regard to age groups where facilities permit.

Discussions take place regularly between the Department of Correctional Services, the local magistrates, prosecutors and the

Row over Ligege may split Venda's Codesa team

Sowetan 28/2/92 (113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE row over the demand for the dismissal of Venda's councillor for agriculture remains unresolved - and could split the homeland's Codesa team.

Venda military ruler, Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, has told organisations demanding Mr GM Ligege's dismissal to confront him themselves.

The order came during a meeting with a delegation representing the organisations on Wednesday after an ultimatum was handed to Ramushwana's office on Monday.

The organisations, which include the ANC and the Southern African Black Taxi Association, demanded that Ramushwana dismiss Ligege by yesterday or face mass action.

In a statement released by Ramushwana's office after meeting the delegation, it was disclosed that the organisations had been told to return today to discuss the allegations against Ligege with him.

They had alleged that Ligege was "terribly undemocratic, arrogant and behaved like he was the government".

In their ultimatum, the 19 organisations said the removal of Ligege was a "national issue" and they "trusted, accepted and respected" Ramushwana.

Mass action call in Venda (113)

MASS action is looming in Venda following this week's stayaway call to pressurise the homeland administration to dismiss a senior official.

The ruling Council of National Unity's GM Ligege, also an agricultural councillor, stands accused of disrespect, arrogance and of being "terribly undemocratic". The battle for his political life intensified at the beginning of February when political, labour and religious organisations resolved that he should be removed from the council. CIPress 8/3/92

Play it again, student told

(113)

A STUDENT at Venda's In-Service Training Centre claims the college administration has set a peculiar pre-requisite for his readmission – to repeat his first year, which he has already passed.

Zhangani Vincent Namadodzi, 26, of Hamutoti location was expelled in 1989 following class boycotts at the college. Rector MS Mukhavhuli said Namadodzi had to repeat the year because the whole curriculum had been restructured.

Cape Times 15/3/92

Writer 'threatened by Venda leader'

STAR 16/3/92 (113)

By Dirk Nel
N Transvaal Bureau

A freelance journalist who contributes to The Star, Willie Mashau, was allegedly threatened by Venda leader Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana and his personal secretary, Captain Tuwani Mukhuba, after a report about a two-day stayaway in the territory.

The report, published in The Star on March 6, said the stayaway was supported by 19 organisations, including the ANC.

Mashau said his house was searched by four soldiers last Monday and his telephone was allegedly tampered with on Tuesday.

The Star is to take up the matter with the Venda authorities.

Last Wednesday, Mashau was questioned by the police.

Venda press liaison officer Lieutenant-Colonel Brian du Toit said he was unable to discuss the matter with The Star but would later talk about "certain problems which have emerged" in connection with Mashau.

A statement issued by the Media Workers Association of South Africa objected strongly to the manner in which Mashau had allegedly been treated, saying it regarded this as a violation of press freedom.

Meanwhile, Brigadier Ramushwana's office has denied that the journalist was threatened in any way.

Mashau said he had experienced difficulties over a period of time with the Venda leader's office — which had repeatedly refused to give him press releases — and in obtaining comments from Brigadier Ramushwana on important issues.

Pupils suffer in pensions fight

Sowetan 23/3/92 (113)

FOCUS

By MATHATHA TSEDU

WHEN two elephants fight, so the saying goes, it is the grass that suffers.

This expression seems to epitomise the clash between teachers and the education department in Venda, where innocent schoolchildren have been caught in between a fight over pensions.

And as the grass of this equation, schoolchildren, who were recently bombarded from all sides to be serious about their schooling and to stop unnecessary boycotts, find themselves alone at schools as teachers attend one meeting or another over the pension issue.

The spark in the controversy was provided by a decision of the ruling military council to privatise the civil service pension scheme. All monies were invested into four insurance companies without consulting the contributors.

Rumours

Rumours started flying around that the military council had withdrawn the pension money and was to use it to finance white companies friendly to military leader Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana.

More rumours followed that other juntas in the Transkei and Ciskei had abused the pension fund in those quasi-states and depleted them. The concern in this was not only restricted to teachers but to all civil servants.

The South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU) called a meeting on Tuesday at the Makwarela Stadium which was attended by about 3 000 teachers.

While other issues such as recognition and nepotism and related issues were also tackled, it was the pension issue that drew a lot of comment.

Invest

The teachers resolved that because they could not trust the junta any more with their hard earned savings, all their pension money should be paid out by April 30 and given to each teacher who would then decide what to do or where to invest the money.

Education department director-general Mr AK Madzaga said on inquiry that he was not fully briefed about the pension issue. He was aware that it was being privatised but had no details.

"Some officials of our department attended a seminar on the matter early this month and they are going to go out this week and next week to explain to teachers what is afoot.

"When you talk about pension you are talking about a man's soul and each one has to be explained to and be given a chance to ask question and decide for himself," he said, confirming that these meetings with his officials would disrupt schooling.

BRIGADIER GABRIEL RAMUSHWANA

Asked how the department, that had always accused teachers of disrupting schooling by calling meetings during school hours, could explain its activities, Madzaga said some teachers have to travel long distances to the meetings and if the meetings were after school, they would reach home very late at night.

"We have to sacrifice," he said.

Chief government spokesman Colonel du Toit said the decision to privatise pensions was to safeguard the fund as it was a strong fund.

He refused to be drawn on the allegations of bankruptcy in Transkei and Ciskei, but denied emphatically that his council had already misused the money. Du Toit said the scheme was good in that every civil servant has the right to choose which institution his/her money should be invested in.

He said own contributions plus employer contributions as well as accrued interest would be paid out to an institution of the contributor's choice and invested for at least ten years.

Further contributions from now onwards would go into a provident fund. However any civil servant who wants to proceed with the present scheme would still be allowed to do so, he said.

Retirement

Du Toit ruled out payments to teachers directly and said the money would have to be paid into a fund where the contributor would not have access for at least 10 years, save for those who would reach retirement before that 10 years.

And as the battle over pensions rages, school children are left to themselves in schools. Come year end, low pass rates and the outcry about lack of facilities, breakdown in learning culture and so on and so on.

While these accusations may be valid in this particular instance, the disruption of schooling by both teachers and the department was due to a bungling by the military council, which tampered with people's savings without consulting them.

And this in a time of negotiations and consultations. Will people ever learn?

Up pens down chalk

CIPRESS 29/3/92

113

By MOSS MAMAILA

A RELAY-RACE boycott of lectures was in progress at the University of Venda this week when lecturers embarked on a boycott barely hours after the students had suspended their week-long boycott.

While students downed pens demanding the dismissal of Professor SP Olivier, who they accuse of racism, the staff vowed not to teach until the campus was free of student intimidation.

The staff association stated that they had noted with horror and disgust the use of violence against academics, and had resolved to boycott lectures.

The university's public relations director, Rufus Kharidza, confirmed that classes had been brought to a halt.

Approached for comment, Dan Leshaba of the SRC said the student body had called off the boycott because the 34 students – whose admission problems also fuelled the strife – were finally registered.

Asked why the students insisted Olivier should go, Leshaba said the professor had a negative attitude towards the SRC, and his influence at four decision-making committees at the university was to the disadvantage of the students.

Drought has emptied the classrooms

Sowetan 30/3/92

By DON SEOKANE

(113)

LACK of water in Venda has disrupted classes at Tshisimane College of Education.

Students at the college stopped attending classes from March 19, citing the shortage of water as one of the reasons for the move.

A spokesman for the Venda department of education confirmed that classes had been brought to a halt at the college, but said the college had not been closed.

Students would resume classes as soon as the problem of water had been solved.

The spokesman said for the past two weeks a repair team from the homeland's department of works was at the college's campus trying to rectify the situation.

He said: "The situation has been worsened by the current drought affecting the whole country. The local spring, which supplies piped water, is said the be drying up and the boreholes are out of water."

The spokesman, however, confirmed that the efforts to normalise the situation at the campus were unsuccessful.

Venda has been hit by a severe drought with some villages being subjected to a water ration.

Gomomo warning on the economy

Sowetan 30/3/92

COSATU president Mr John Gomomo on Saturday called for worker participation in the restructuring of the economy and urged increased pressure on authorities to back demands for an interim government and a constituent assembly.

"If we allow the unilateral implementation of the present Government's programme, we will face an economic wasteland by the time a democratic government is elected," Gomomo told the union's economic policy conference in Johannesburg on Friday.

"An interim government and a constituent assembly is not a *fait accompli.* We still have to apply pressure to achieve these demands.

"Organised labour should set the pace," he said.

Ramushwana in trouble?

(113)

By MOSS MAMAILA C/Press 5/4/92

BRIGADIER Gabriel Ramushwana's military government of Venda seems to be facing troubled times, barely two years after coming to power.

This week hundreds of people marched to the goverment buildings in Thohoyandou demanding the immediate dismissal of headman Gilbert Legege, a member of the ruling Council of National Unity.

They accuse him of being "terribly undemocratic and arrogant" because he does not want civic structures in Venda.

The march had the backing of 19 organisations, including the ANC and church and labour bodies.

Chief government spokesman, Lt Col Brian du Toit, dismissed the allegations as vague, and said Legege would not be dismissed.

Police and soldiers have also complained that senior posts in the police force and army have been given to whites. Pupils are demanding more classrooms, while many newly qualified teachers are unemployed.

There is also dissatisfaction over Ramushwana's stance on the reincorporation of Venda into South Africa. The people want it now. He wants to wait and see.

nbisa Nyamakazi's song broke our photographer's heart in two.
hembisa, of Khayalitsha, mentioned that her hobbies are music,
■ Pic: FANIE JASON

new heights when
he show at Zinzi's
at the Mandelas
est list read like a
■ Pic: FANIE JASON

'Colour blind' principal ousted

113

By MOSS MAMAILA C/Press 5/4/92

THE white principal of the Dimane Agcricultural High School in Venda has lost his post because he was "colour blind", City Press was told this week.

HK Theron's sudden withdrawal from the school has angered pupils who boycotted classes on Tuesday, demanding his immediate reinstatement.

A source, who requested not to be named, said trouble started a while ago when some white teachers complained to the SA Embassy in Sibasa that whites were not accorded special privileges.

One teacher said: "The main problem here is that these whites want separate toilets and a whites-only staffroom to keep racial barriers between the staff."

Theron, a seconded official, was recalled to Pretoria where he was told that the Venda Education Department had requested his withdrawal from Dimane.

The principal checked with the homeland authorities and found no such request was ever made.

Describing Theron as a good administrator, vice principal Moses Monyai said pupils and teachers had now lodged a complaint at the Thohoyandou Circuit office. Venda's Director General for Education, AK Madzaga, said the grievances would be referred to the relevant SA authorities. He expressed the possibility that Theron would be reinstated.

Attempts to reach a spokesman for the SA Embassy proved fruitless.

make it as

Man claims witchcraft has strong grip in Venda

Sowetan 9/4/92 (113)

THOHOYANDOU - When a witchdoctor was suspected of casting evil spells, Mr Phusu Mmbobo helped rally 600 villagers and they burned the man to death.

Mmbobo, one of 15 people charged with murder, says he knows why he was acquitted last year: While in court, he chewed a special preparation made by a witch doctor he trusted.

Mmbobo (25) said of the killing: "People wanted to act. We were worried we would be next."

Witchcraft has a powerful hold in much of Africa, but its grip is unusually strong in Venda.

Traditions such as ancestor worship and ritual killings, part of the Venda culture for countless generations, now clash with Western practices in the courts, politics and medicine.

"The belief in witchcraft is stronger here than anywhere else I've seen," said Mr Edwin Hanisch, who teaches anthropology at the University of Venda and has studied tribal practices for 20 years.

More than 200 people were prosecuted in Venda last year for witchcraft-related incidents and 107 were convicted, most for murder and public violence.

"Once there's a single incident, it touches off a frenzied reaction," said Mr Bruce Morrison, Attorney-General of Venda. "I've got at least 10 cases sitting on my desk."

Venda has had two spells of witchcraft hysteria in recent years, both linked to political turmoil.

The first came when President Patrick Mphephu died in 1988. The second followed the release from prison of leader Mr Nelson Mandela in February 1990 and culminated with a military coup in the homeland two months later.

Witch doctors, called sangomas or nyangas, are most prominent in rural areas, where they are often the only source of medical help.

In both instances, accusations of witchcraft ran rampant as political and business factions tried to discredit each other.

At the height of the pandemonium two years ago, about 200 people accused of being witches sought shelter in police stations. One man lives in a tent at a police station to this day.

Venda has a long history of ritual murders in which small children are killed and their body parts buried or used in magic potions intended to protect a village.

Such killings are perceived to be for the good of the community and generally accepted, said the Human Sciences Research Council, a group financed by the South African government that compiled a report on witchcraft in Venda.

In recent years, the homeland has seen a rise in secret ritual killings by individuals, such as businessmen, who seek to improve their personal fortunes, the report said.

Ironically, if a businessman or farmer prospers, he risks being accused of witchcraft.

In one case, an agriculture official retired and returned to his old village and employed modern farming techniques, his crops flourished and neighbours accused him of using zombies, the living dead, to tend his fields at night. He was burned to death.

Witch doctors, called sangomas or nyangas, are most prominent in rural areas, where they are often the only source of medical help.

An estimated 200 000 traditional healers practice in South Africa. They include herbalists, who rely solely on natural substances, and witch doctors, who supplement the medicine by invoking spirits.

A minority of witch doctors are thought to use black magic.

Mr Jack Mavhungu, a veteran sangoma in Venda, said he divines cures through dreams and throwing his animal bones.

"It's like an X-ray," Mavhungu said, peering at the bones of lions, wart hogs and crocodiles tossed onto the floor of his mud-and-thatch hut.

"I can see exactly why a patient is suffering."

On the contrary, said Dr Frikkie Kellerman, acting superintendent of the Tshilidzini Hospital in Venda, "we see a lot of people who suffer from the complications of traditional medicine".

To combat such practices, the hospital holds an annual meeting with traditional healers. Some now refer patients to the hospital.

Mavhungu said patients come to him from Zimbabwe, Mozambique and the far corners of South Africa, ignoring hospitals along the way.

"They say they trust only me," he said. - *SA Press Association-AP.*

Ligege to face his opponents in meeting

Sowetan 9/4/92

By RUSSEL MOLEFE (113)

A MEETING has been arranged by Venda's military council between the Agriculture Minister, Headman GM Ligege, and organisations calling for his dismissal.

Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana's Council for National Unity secretary-general Mr T Moeti said yesterday that 16 organisations, including the ANC, Sabta and church organisations, have been asked to send representatives.

"Ligege will state his case before the organisations which are calling for his dismissal" Moeti said.

The meeting was proposed after a petition was handed to Ramushwana during a march last week in which the organisations vowed to "fight until the bitter end" if Ligege was not fired from the government.

Gazankulu mine sold for R4,3-m

115

STAR 13/4/92

Northern Transvaal Bureau

GIYANI — After two years of negotiations with various interested parties, the Gazankulu Development Corporation (GDC) has sold the Fumani gold mine for R4,3 million to Severn Import and Export.

Mine manager Alwyn van der Merwe said the GDC was shifting its emphasis from capital intensive forms of development to human resources in areas such as training, housing, small business development, farmer settlement programmes, and transportation.

He pointed out that the corporation had absorbed a loss of about R3,5 million in 1990/91, and this had been incurred largely as a result of heavy exploration and development costs. The mine's problems had been complicated by the poor gold price, and a low grade of ore from the mining operations.

As a result, 100 workers had been retrenched, and it was established that an injection of between R20 million and R30 million would have been necessary to make the mine viable in the medium and long term.

Venda cops covered up for colleague

(113)

C/Press 19/4/92

TWO senior Venda policemen who covered up the 1987 murder of a youth to protect another policeman have been found guilty by a Thohoyandou magistrate of defeating the ends of justice.

Capt Justice Mandiwana, 39, was sentenced to a year's imprisonment or a R1 000 fine, while Sgt Samuel Funyufunyi, 46, received six month's jail or a fine of R600.

Cop won't face charges for killing

Sowetan 23/4/92 (113)

By MATHATHA TSEDU

A SENIOR Venda policeman who four years ago allegedly shot and killed a youth, will not be prosecuted, according to the police in the homeland.

A Venda police spokesman, Lieutenant Benno de Klerk, said the decision not to lay charges of murder against Warrant Officer Leonard Luvhengo was taken by the Attorney-General of Venda.

This is despite the evidence at a recent trial in which two senior policemen covered up for Luvhengo.

De Klerk said the decision not to prosecute was because the magistrate who presided over the inquest into the shooting of Mr Enos Musekwa had found that, while the killing was an offence; no one could be blamed for it.

Musekwa's shooting at Ravele village, Sinthumule district, in 1987 was the focus of attention last week when two senior police officers, Captain NJ Mandiwana and Sergeant S Funyufunyu, were found guilty of defeating the ends of justice.

The court found that the two had forced other police witnesses to submit false affidavits about Musekwa's killing. The four police officers were ordered to say Musekwa was shot while police were dispersing an illegal gathering.

The four constables testified that Luvhengo shot Musekwa three hours after the alleged meeting at a spot far removed from the scene of the meeting.

De Klerk said the docket was sent to the Attorney-General immediately after the magistrate's findings.

He, however, decided that no one should be prosecuted.

"A memo was made by the chief of the CID that no one should be prosecuted in the matter and that is where the matter rests now," De Klerk said.

Meanwhile, police have opened a docket for attempted murder in which one of the four constables who spoke out against the cover-up, Mr Patrick Mabogo, is a complainant.

De Klerk said the matter was still under investigation.

Mabogo said he was shot at in December by policemen who intended to silence him.

De Klerk confirmed that Mabogo's attorney had written to him expressing concern about the safety of his client.

Mabogo has been suspended from duty for attempted extortion.

He, however, denies the charge, claiming is part of a campaign to harass him for speaking out against the other policemen.

Sisulu to take over Univenda

Sowetan (113)

ANC deputy president Mr Walter Sisulu will be installed as chancellor of the University of Venda on May 21. 24/4/92

The University said Sisulu was appointed by a revamped council, including students.

Venda acts on drought

(113)

Sowetan 27/4/92

By DON SEOKANE

THE Venda homeland intends to increase water tariffs and to sink private bore holes in an attempt to curb hardship caused by drought.

The homeland's spokesman, Colonel B du Toit, said the water tariff increase and the sinking of private boreholes were two of the five measures the Venda administration was considering.

Other measures considered are:

- Organising a national day of prayer;
- Assistance to cattle farmers with cattle fodder and;
- Raising the Vondo Dam wall.

The water level in the dam is at a low of 13,28 percent but most serious is the Luphephe dam which is at a low level of eight percent, according to statistics released by the Drought Crisis Office.

Du Toit added that two people have been appointed to act as co-ordinator and secretary to assist people with problems concerning drought. Mr AN Mutakusi will be a co-ordinator while Mr WA Nemadzhilili has been appointed secretary.

People needing help should phone (0159) 824151.

Church facing rebellion

Sowetan 29/4/92 113

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Lutheran Church in the Northern Transvaal is facing a groundswell of rebellion whose roots can be traced to the blurring of political lines due to reform.

The Dzanani parish has decided that it will not take part in elections for a deputy dean of their circuit in protest against selective and inconsistent implementation of the church's political policy.

While this decision follows a fairly recent incident in which the parish invited a government representative to address its rally, church insiders say the root cause relates to attempts by a clique within the Devhula Circuit to wrest control of the church in the interests of a political force.

But the seeds of the present discontent go back much further, when, in what was seen at the time as a milestone decision, the church ruled that there should be no contact with the State apparatus and its tentacles.

This ruling extended to State instruments such as the SABC and meant that Lutheran priests could not use radio and television programmes to propagate the word of God.

But as reform gripped the country and the State took the initiative to change the face of oppression, unbanning political organisations and thus making possible allies of erstwhile foes, this principle became somewhat elastic.

DEAN FARISANI

And so we saw no less a person than the well-known Dean Tshenuwani Farisani fraternising with bantustan leader Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana of Venda at Codesa as part of the Venda delegation.

Some of Farisani's co-delegates in the Venda delegation at Codesa were in fact Lutherans who had tried, about nine years earlier, to have him expelled from the church and failing that, attempted to form a separate Venda Lutheran Church.

The church said nothing about Farisani's involvement with Ramushwana, and instead passed a resolution at a diocesan council (DC), wishing Codesa well and imploring God to bestow it with his blessings.

But the matter took a different turn when the Dzanani parish, under the leadership of the Rev Tshidumbu Herman Siavha, held a rally early this year and invited a speaker from the Venda government.

The speaker who turned up for the rally, Councillor for Posts and Telecommunications Mr Ligege, is also a senior member of the church.

He had initially been part of the separatist group but later apologised to the church.

Following protests Siavha, who had been appointed deputy dean in October, was demoted by the DC in January and castigated for transgressing church policy regarding contact with bantustan governments.

The DC also decided that he would be transferred from the Devhula circuit under Farisani to another circuit.

When the head of the diocese, Bishop SE Serote, was confronted about the seeming inconsistency of the church ruling and asked about Farisani's role in Codesa, he said the two were not the same.

Serote said his information was that Farisani had been elected by people to represent them at Codesa and was not part of the bantustan delegation. This position conflicts with the actual situation as Farisani is in a list supplied by the Venda government of its working group members.

Following the DC decision to demote and transfer Siavha, the Dzanani parish council held a meeting on March 29 and decided that the DC decision showed inconsistency in that it did not question Farisani's involvement with Ramushwana.

Deciding that it would boycott elections to elect a deputy dean to replace Siavha, the parish called for a commission of inquiry into the matter and implied that all was not well.

"We feel there might be some hidden issues which may have been brought into the matter and others which were left outside. It is important that we parishioners know the truth," the parish resolved.

No compassion

The council said the action taken against Siavha showed no compassion nor did it display any spirit of fairness, justice, forgiveness and understanding.

"When entertaining a case of this nature, you should listen to both sides of the story. To our knowledge this was not done. The pastor in charge and the parish were left outside. This is not fair," the parish said in resolutions sent to Serote.

Serote told *Sowetan* he had not yet received the resolutions and could not say what steps will be taken. Farisani, to whom a copy has also been sent, is overseas.

Church insiders say the problem seemed to have its origins in Siavha's appointment by the DC in October last year as deputy dean, over the Rev Zwo Nevhutalu, who had been ahead in votes at the circuit.

These sources say there are moves by ANC members to take over key leadership positions of the church in the circuit and that Siavha was disliked because he was politically inactive.

Nevhutalu, who is an active member of the ANC, is tipped to become the new deputy dean. The sources said while church members agree that the Dzanani parish was wrong in involving bantustan officials in church affairs, the majority feeling is that if action is taken against Siavha as leader of the parish, the same should apply to Farisani or any other church leader who does the same.

And so, as the political dividing lines between comrades and collaborators seemingly gets blurred by the reformist actions of the De Klerk regime, the church finds itself caught in between.

At the end of the day, the question at the centre of this row amounts to simply this: Is involvement in Codesa, with its bantustan participants or even as part of a bantustan delegation, less criminal and in fact acceptable, while mixing with the same puppet leaders at church functions is punishable by demotion and transfer?

The Lutheran Church is finding itself having to answer those questions as a matter of urgency or face dissent within its membership.

Nothing left but prayer

STAR 2/5/92. (113)

THE drought in Venda is so serious police have been ordered to arrest anyone with a dripping tap. JOE LOUW reports.

VENDA, legendary land of a thousand streams, is in the grip of a drought of devastating proportions.

Its dams are drying up rapidly, and in the three months during which soft pre-winter rains should have drenched the land, less than a millimetre has fallen.

Crops have failed for the second consecutive year. It is estimated that more than 40 percent of Venda's 140 000 head of cattle have died of hunger and thirst.

In the dusty villages people tramp for miles in search of water, and often at muddy waterholes that were once flowing streams they have to compete with equally thirsty animals.

For Jim Nenungwi, who lives and farms near Mangaya in the Thengwe district, this has been the worst drought ever. A few years ago Nenungwi was a prosperous man who owned nearly 100 head of cattle. On the banks of a stream near his home he cultivated rice, beans, maize, tomatoes and watermelons.

During the past three years most of Nenungwi's wealth has shrivelled away — mainly because there has been so little rain. His ricefield has long since disappeared and a large brown sandpatch is all that remains of his vegetable garden.

His plight typifies that of most Venda cattle-owners in the giant arc of northern villages that stretches up to near the border of the Kruger National Park.

"My cows started dying in January this year," Nenungwe said. "So far I have lost almost 30 cows — and of the ones remaining many are lost on the other side of that mountain," pointing to nearby hill.

He explains that most of the villagers, in a desperate attempt to save what was left of their cows, had driven them across a high ridge in search of pasture only to find that there too, the streams had long since dried up. Most of the cows were too weak to make it back to their villages and had to be abandoned.

Venda's chief animal-health technician, A H Masikhwa, says: "We are involved in a desperate effort to save as much of the national herd as we can under the circumstances. We are assisting small and large farmers with fodder and we have on order 1 000 tons we hope will come in from South Africa.

"We are also sinking boreholes to tap underground water — but of course human needs take priority.

"We have for many years now been trying to persuade cattle-owners to reduce their herds so that they become more manageable at times like this.

"For the most part we have failed, because every time when just a little rain falls and leaves turn a bit green most owners stop sending their cows for slaughter on the assumption that the end of the drought has come ... now we have this tragic situation."

It is not only stock-farmers who are threatened. Inhabitants of larger towns in the region have felt the pinch as water levels in the four largest dams have plunged.

The most serious situation is that at Vondo Dam — the region's largest — which supplies water to the capital of Venda, Thohoyandou.

At present the dam has water enough for about 35 days.

As the next few months will be those of the dry season — rains are expected only around August or September — the situation is perilous.

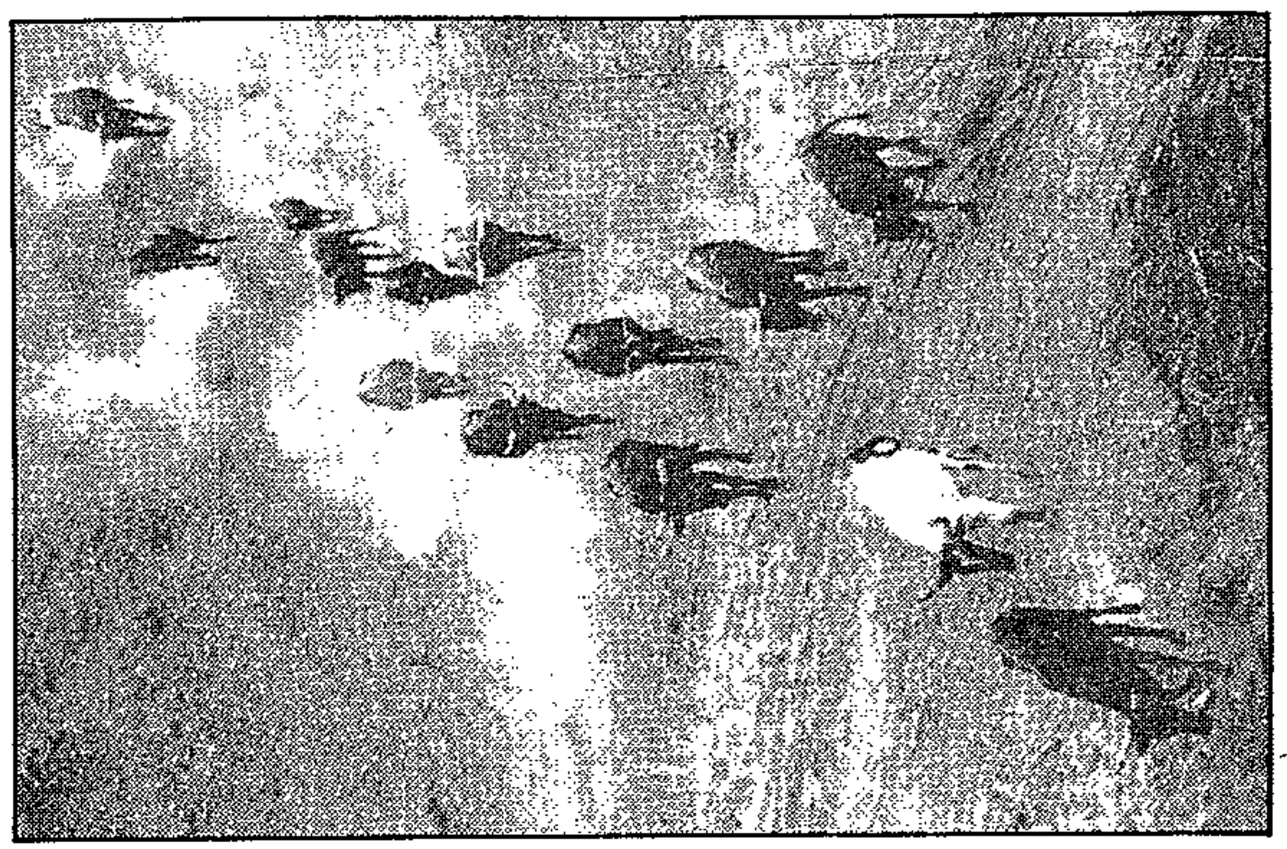
This week Venda police were ordered to arrest anyone using a hosepipe or leaving a tap dripping.

To discourage water wastage high tariffs have been imposed and each family is resticted to using only 400 litres a day. Similar restrictions have been imposed on local industry, which has been urged to use borehole water only.

Last month a drought crisis committee was formed under the chairmanship of Dr J P McCutcheon, the region's chief medical officer.

The committee, entrusted with co-ordinating and implementing all drought-related measures, this week announced the launch of an urgent request for financial assistance from South Africa and private charities.

It also announced that May 5 would be a national day of prayer for rain.



DUSTBOWL: Thirsty cattle rush to what used to be the fast-flowing Levubu River.

AID TO TRANSKEI

	1986/87 R	1987/88 R	1988/89 R	1989/90 R	1990/91 R	1991/92 R
A. Direct financial assistance						
Budgetary aid	352 400 000	516 722 000	711 769 680	875 320 000	1 076 109 000	1 547 370 400
Incentive scheme for industries	17 000 000	25 903 658	21 332 370	25 327 100	20 753 976	18 915 746
Non-recoverable financial assistance	2 068 100	—	—	—	—	—
Relief of distress	1 501 295	—	—	—	—	—
Job creation	11 550 000	6 800 000	4 484 056	6 517 000	—	—
TOTAL	384 519 395	549 425 658	737 586 106	907 164 100	1 096 862 976	1 566 286 146
B. Transfer payments						
Tax compensation	115 719 753	138 687 461	157 273 476	192 301 965	253 000 000	307 916 000
Customs union	292 446 000	350 516 000	458 231 000	548 915 000	502 084 000	555 591 000
Common monetary area	11 078 720	13 660 910	17 676 587	24 202 900	29 489 027	36 402 600
TOTAL	419 244 473	502 864 371	633 181 063	765 419 865	784 573 027	899 909 600
C. Loans from RSA (Project Aid)	32 677 170	19 105 000	6 699 904	4 177 602	9 351 000	8 717 821
D. Technical and other assistance						
Manpower provision	4 966 775	5 350 000	4 829 355	6 899 875	5 744 363	7 602 811
Flour subsidy	9 978 969	8 825 000	6 791 280	5 127 755	7 122 846	—
Technical assistance	755 205	700 000	682 312	665 581	279 749	5 117 930
Salaries of judges	204 710	278 000	381 552	666 834	549 833	790 000
TOTAL	15 905 659	15 153 000	12 684 499	13 360 045	13 696 791	13 510 741
GRAND TOTAL	852 346 697	1 086 548 029	1 390 151 572	1 690 121 612	1 904 483 794	2 488 424 308

1) Actual figures
2) Estimates

NOTE: Transfer payments in respect of customs union share and common monetary area appear on the budget vote of the Department of Finance.

AID TO BOPHUTHATSWANA

	1986/87 R	1987/88 R	1988/89 R	1989/90 R	1990/91 R	1991/92 R
A. Direct financial assistance						
Budgetary aid	154 764 000	336 000 000	448 565 841	539 641 740	666 638 000	878 572 200
Incentive scheme for industries	6 000 000	12 863 905	18 164 058	20 992 666	21 982 443	23 044 857
Non-recoverable financial assistance	11 899 155	—	7 612 576	5 559 323	—	—
Relief of distress	2 075 412	—	—	—	—	—
Job creation	9 550 000	8 720 000	8 499 999	9 860 805	—	—
TOTAL	184 288 567	357 583 905	482 842 474	576 054 534	688 620 443	901 617 051

AID TO BOPHUTHATSWANA (Continued)

	1986/87 R	1987/88 R	1988/89 R	1989/90 R	1990/91 R	1991/92 R
B. Transfer payments						
Tax compensation	43 716 309	50 938 243	59 414 367	72 647 339	95 000 000	116 324 000
Customs union	293 833 000	411 567 000	516 028 000	623 354 000	698 418 000	868 411 000
Common monetary area	5 306 773	6 540 907	8 458 560	11 585 617	14 115 400	17 418 267
TOTAL	342 856 082	469 046 150	583 900 927	707 586 956	807 533 400	1 002 153 267
C. Loans from RSA (Project aid)	5 909 917	28 844 000	9 132 130	19 148 127	12 710 000	33 841 977
D. Technical and other assistance						
Manpower provision	11 714 195	13 410 119	12 941 420	19 312 765	16 301 329	17 631 367
Flour subsidy	6 807 717	6 860 242	7 441 345	4 346 724	2 686 625	—
Technical assistance	302 201	741 981	878 702	119 644	6 737 453	4 724 325
Salaries of judges	256 508	240 000	170 207	111 093	222 499	504 280
TOTAL	19 080 621	21 253 111	21 431 674	24 643 616	19 330 097	22 859 972
GRAND TOTAL	552 135 187	876 727 1661	097 307 205	327 433 233	528 193 940	960 472 273

1) Actual figures
2) Estimates

NOTE: Transfer payments in respect of customs union share and common monetary area appear on the budget vote of the Department of Finance.

AID TO VENDA

	1986/87 R	1987/88 R	1988/89 R	1989/90 R	1990/91 R	1991/92 R
A. Direct financial assistance						
Budgetary aid	164 200 000	220 500 000	290 194 860	348 202 230	437 125 000	554 337 700
Incentive scheme for industries	4 036 473	3 116 322	3 148 392	6 362 648	7 415 646	6 078 905
Non-recoverable financial assistance	4 541 381	—	7 134 183	1 200 522	—	337 301
Relief of distress	—	—	—	—	—	—
Job creation	5 092	2 649 831	2 479 372	—	—	—
TOTAL	176 870 853	226 266 153	302 956 807	357 860 436	444 540 646	560 753 906
B. Transfer payments						
Tax compensation	7 595 057	8 849 000	10 332 361	12 621 392	16 000 000	20 210 000
Customs union	42 105 000	57 658 000	86 653 000	90 390 000	99 580 000	134 118 000
Common monetary area	1 455 000	1 518 933	2 012 587	3 559 250	4 336 067	5 351 667
TOTAL	66 771 990	77 931 587	99 576 534	106 570 642	119 915 067	159 679 667
C. Loans from RSA (Project aid)	403 841	14 684 000	11 344 730	27 058 928	15 078 000	1 753 381

(101)

AID TO VENDA (Continued)

	1986/87 R	1987/88 R	1988/89 R	1989/90 R	1990/91 R	1991/92 R
D. Technical and other assistance						
Manpower provision	9 307 295	9 254 836	11 551 110	14 549 855	10 964 806	19 081 000
Flour subsidy	1 861 605	2 033 652	1 762 451	1 130 893	921 744	—
Technical assistance	641 579	1 080 985	928 541	545 222	197 296	2 083 820
Salaries of judges	196 801	162 659	191 541	401 041	204 729	398 000
TOTAL	12 007 290	12 532 132	14 433 643	16 627 011	12 288 575	21 562 820
GRAND TOTAL	256 053 964	331 413 872	428 311 714	508 117 017	591 822 288	743 749 774

1) Actual figures
2) Estimates

NOTE: Transfer payments in respect of customs union share and common monetary area appear on the budget vote of the Department of Finance.

AID TO CISKEI (101)

	1986/87 R	1987/88 R	1988/89 R	1989/90 R	1990/91 R	1991/92 R
A. Direct financial assistance						
Budgetary aid	221 789 034	301 692 499	384 930 928	440 033 134	561 934 117	708 431 700
Incentive scheme for industries	29 871 423	23 516 112	31 310 570	16 098 888	35 324 135	28 371 959
Non-recoverable financial assistance	603 262	—	99 278	—	—	201 308
Relief of distress	—	—	—	—	—	—
Job creation	14 770 105	10 830 000	6 457 660	4 995 317	—	—
TOTAL	267 033 824	336 038 611	422 798 436	461 127 339	597 258 252	737 004 967
B. Transfer payments						
Tax compensation	24 386 346	24 563 000	33 141 862	40 523 332	53 000 000	64 886 000
Customs union	107 291 000	156 117 000	180 489 000	221 776 000	265 989 000	265 989 000
Common monetary area	2 999 893	3 702 400	4 794 133	6 561 400	7 993 440	9 869 600
TOTAL	134 677 239	184 382 400	218 424 995	268 860 732	326 982 440	340 744 600
C. Loans from RSA (Project aid)	7 638 332	7 585 000	11 544 730	20 359 114	11 649 000	9 323 272
D. Technical and other assistance						
Manpower provision	9 697 851	24 758 130	17 570 022	17 122 280	13 786 329	22 998 000
Flour subsidy	611 092	498 723	454 278	322 036	117 755	—
Technical assistance	243 572	305 377	432 276	573 049	473 421	3 715 448
Salaries of judges	214 424	232 754	345 508	726 976	382 505	790 000
TOTAL	10 766 739	25 794 984	18 802 184	18 734 341	14 760 010	27 503 448
GRAND TOTAL	420 116 134	553 800 000	671 570 345	769 081 526	950 649 702	1 114 576 287

1) Actual figures
2) Estimates

NOTE: Transfer payments in respect of customs union share and common monetary area appear on the budget vote of the Department of Finance.

SA Medical and Dental Council: disciplinary cases

265. Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of National Health:†

(1) Whether members of the South African Medical and Dental Council are required in considering disciplinary action to adjudicate on colleagues who are or have been involved in suspected irregularities; if so,

(2) whether any of these members have the necessary legal knowledge and experience to perform such a task; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether consideration is being given to having disciplinary cases of this nature heard by magistrates or judges in courts; if not, why not;

(4) whether she will make a statement on the matter?

B630E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) No, it is required of members of the South African Medical and Dental Council, in the consideration of disciplinary action, to pronounce judgement on the professional acceptability of the conduct of colleagues involved in suspected irregularities;

(2) falls away;

(3) no, because the South African Medical and Dental Council, as constituted, was established to perform this function. Disciplinary cases of the South African Medical and Dental Council are not criminal or civil cases which are judged in the courts and require the knowledge and experience of the ethical norms of the medical and dental professions, which the members of the Council possess. The Supreme Court has referred to the South African Medical and Dental Council as the body, *par excellence*, to take decisions on disciplinary cases. Every colleague has the right to take decisions of the Council on revision to the Supreme Court which will ensure that such a person is not wronged by a possible legal error on the part of the Council;

(4) no.

Own Affairs:

Social old-age pensioners: amount of pension

68. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Health Services and Welfare:

(1) What was the amount of the pension received by a social old-age pensioner (a) during the 1991-92 financial year and (b) as at the latest specified date in the current financial year;

(2) whether this pension is to be increased in the current financial year; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) by how much;

(3) whether the amounts paid monthly to pensioners are in step with the rise in the rate of inflation; if not, what is the rate of growth of the amounts paid monthly to pensioners?

B650E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE:

(1) (a) 1 April 1991 to 30 September 1991 = R304 pm
1 October 1991 to 31 March 1992 = R314 pm

(b) R345 per month.

(2) Yes.

(a) Pensions have been increased as from 1 April 1992.

(b) R31 per month.

(3) No.
Pensions have been increased by 10% as from 1 April 1992.

Venda is rocked by a crime spree

Sowetan 4/6/92 (113)

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

VIOLENT crimes are increasing at an alarming rate in Venda.

A man was shot dead by three men when he answered a knock at his door.

A taxi driver was shot dead by two gunmen posing as passengers and then fled in his kombi.

The gunmen abandoned the kombi after wounding another man and fled with his bakkie.

A petrol attendant was wounded by robbers who made off with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Three mutilated bodies, one with tongue and private parts missing, were found at the roadside.

While police liaison officer Lieutenant Benno de Klerk claims the situation is under control, *Sowetan* has established that arrests are rare. And although the area is regarded as one in which the spirit of humanity is still deep-rooted in the local society, the situation is fast deteriorating.

Many fear that if it is not brought under control immediately, the humanism will be wiped out and the remainder would be the "eat or be eaten situation".

During summer seasons, the homeland's inhabitants used to sleep on verandas outside but the practice has now disappeared.

Fear has driven them inside. Spiralling crime leaves them virtual prisoners in their own neighbourhoods.

What is it that drives this society to choose violent crime as its way of life?

According to De Klerk, ever increasing poverty and unemployment are the main factors behind the violence.

Of the more than 40 000 pupils who passed matric last year, only a quarter found employment or were admitted to tertiary institutions. The remainder are roaming the streets with nothing to do.

With the lack of sporting and entertainment facilities, De Klerk, who was appointed head of the police PR division after a takeover by Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana in 1990, conceded that armed robberies and housebreakings are on the increase.

Although he could not provide current statistics, he agreed that an average of four brutal murders a week were committed in the Thohoyandou district alone.

But he said, murder cases are on the decline when compared with 41 committed in February last year.

De Klerk said he believed most of the robberies were committed by "outsiders" since cases of gun theft are rare in the homeland.

Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana

He said the Government has issued a directive to police to be strict with the issuing of firearm licences.

"I can assure everybody that these criminals do not come from this area.

"They are outsiders and this has been proven by arrests. Most of the armed robberies are committed by handguns and we are just happy that no AK-47's are being imported here," De Klerk said.

A crime prevention unit under the command of Major P Murulane has been formed to stamp out the ever increasing crimes in the homeland.

The effect of scorching heat and drought in rural areas is ominous, with many areas going without drinking or cooking water. People have to travel long distances while other areas depend solely on supplies by army tankers. Here, youths at Tshavhalovhedzi in Nzhelele, Venda, create their own wheelbarrow traffic as they push water home. Pic: MATHATHA TSEDU

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Commuters boycott buses

(113) Sowetan 5/6/92.

THOUSANDS of commuters in Venda are boycotting Phadziri Bus Service, the largest operator in the area, following a fare increase.

The decision to boycott the buses was taken at mass meetings held in several areas this week after the announcement that fares were to go up from next week.

Efforts to contact the bus company's management bore no fruit as *Sowetan* was told the "right people" to comment on the matter were not available.

School's out (in

No classrooms – but the prison grows and grows

(113)

Story and Pictures by MOSES MAMAILA

PERHAPS the only major thing Venda has built for its people in 13 years of independence is a prison.

C/Press 14/6/92

Judging from the glamorous Venda Sun hotel, the shopping complex and the luxurious official houses of the top government officials in the homeland capital of Thohoyandou, the assumption might sound unfair, but hardly 10km from town pupils attend lessons under trees, while others are packed in overcrowded classrooms. There are more than 100 in some.

When City Press visited Mudaswali Secondary at Khubvi village this week, three classes were being held in the open. The pupils in one of the classes were writing the mid-year exam.

While a few had chairs but no tables, others placed their books on their thighs, and some wrote standing up. None of them seemed to be worried about the goats that were sharing their "classroom".

"We do not have a latecomer problem because pupils come very early to secure a desk," said a teacher.

Veranda office

At Tshivhidzo Masiagwala Secondary at Maungani, some 3km from Thohoyandou, a Standard Seven class of more than 60 attended school under mango trees.

The principal was using a classroom veranda as his office. There was nowhere else for him to work.

And while pupils are overcrowding the classrooms hundreds of qualified teachers are without jobs.

Chief government spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Brian du Toit said 488 teachers had applied for teaching posts in May, and only 151 were successful. He said 1 371 classrooms were needed, but only 39 were being built. Ten had been completed.

"There are not enough classrooms because of the lack of funds," he explained.

Residents also complained of poor medical facilities in the homeland. There are only three hospitals – Tshilidzini, Donald Frazer and Siloam.

The hospitals are usually overcrowded and some patients are forced to sleep on the floor," a nurse said.

"But give credit where it is due," said a SADTU member pointing to the "big and beautiful" Venda central prison which is being been constantly extended.

Venda to mourn Boipatong (113)

VENDA leader Brig Gabriel Ramushwana has declared tomorrow a day of national mourning following the Boipatong massacre. "The tempo of possibilities for democratic transition that have been on the horizon have stagnated since the suspension of negotiations. We are all concerned by the violence and loss of innocent lives."

C/Press 28/6/92

Drought grips the dry land

By MOSES MAMAILA

VILLAGERS at Maungani, one of the Northern-Transvaal villages wake up as early as 4 am to queue for the most potent and simple of all life-giving mutis – water.

Taps in the drought-devastated village outside Thohoyandou are only opened between 7 am and 10 am following "very strict" water cuts introduced in Venda.

Villagers reserve space in the long queue carrying their 25-litre containers.

The situation in areas such as Muswodi village has dramatically worsened and residents there depend entirely on the supply provided by the government tankers.

Venda government spokesman Lt-Col Brian Du Toit could not say how much this was costing.

"We have bought many water tankers and we are improving 94 boreholes. Fifty more will be drilled soon," he said.

The drought has eroded the chauvinist view that it is a woman's job to fetch water. Men now take water containers with them.

A resident of Muswodi village recently told radio Thohoyandou that in his area they no longer wash themselves as the available water was used for cooking and drinking.

Citizen 28/6/92

(113)

Water, food crisis devastates Venda

STAR 2/7/92.

By Dirk Nel (113)
and Willie Mashau
Northern Transvaal Bureau

THOHOYANDOU — Emergency measures costing millions of rands have been implemented in Venda, where one-third of the population faces starvation, extreme malnutrition, and diseases caused by the acute shortage of clean water.

Sketching the graveness of the situation during an interview with The Star this week, Venda Director of Health Dr John McCutcheon said about 100 villages in central and northern Venda were without water.

Tankers provided by the Venda and South African defence forces, as well as the territory's departments of Works and Agricultural, were transporting water to the neediest areas, and emergency nutrition schemes had been launched.

"We could be dealing with a famine situation shortly, if the draught persists," Dr McCutcheon warned.

The drought had coincided with a steep increase in unemployment, community leaders said. An estimated 30 000 head of cattle had been lost this year, with many dying of thirst or because of lack of grazing, while others had to be slaughtered.

Dr McCutcheon expressed appreciation for the help given by World Vision and Operation Hunger, and pointed out that Venda's share of drought aid finance from the SA Government had come just at the right time.

But many villagers in remote areas have to walk 10 to 12 km daily to fetch water.

In the Mufulwi area, several villages are dependent on a spring, which has dwindled to a mere trickle, but the water is clean and many women wait for hours to fill their containers. The water tankers reach some villages only once a week.

Meanwhile, the Venda Drought Committee has initiated a scheme to pump water from the Tshakuma Dam over a mountain into the catchment area of the Vondo Dam — Venda's main water source — which is only 5 percent full.

Scores of boreholes are being sunk all over Venda, but many drilling operations have been unsuccessful.

Dr McCutcheon said the Vondo Dam was down to 4 percent at the end of May, but a freak downpour of 100 mm in the catchment area two weeks ago had raised the level to just more than 6 percent. If this had not happened, the dam would probably be empty by now.

Race to halt rural exodus

STAR 10/8/92. (113)

The drought threatens to trigger the mass migration of thousands of black families in a desperate search for survival from food and water shortages, reports MICHAEL CHESTER.

ELITE teams of international engineers and local experts have formed a special task force in the northern Transvaal on the most dramatic mission most of them have ever tackled: find water — and avert one of the biggest and most tragic mass migrations on record in southern Africa.

Director of operations Len Abrams, from the new Consultative Forum on Drought Relief, estimates the numbers in the trek may swell as high as between 2,5 and 3 million unless new water supplies can be tapped from deep under dried-out river-beds and land parched by the longest and most severe drought in living memory.

"We're in a desperate battle against time," he says. "Drilling operations are running round the clock. Unless we can trace new water sources and unless spring rains come to the rescue, the start of a massive migration from hundreds of villages will be inevitable in the next three months."

The hunt for water has been spread out across hundreds of kilometres of the northern Transvaal and most of the Venda and Lebowa homelands, where hundreds of thousands of black families have found themselves trapped in the drought crisis.

New boreholes are being drilled, broken pumps repaired, every small leak in water pipes plugged, new dams laid out to secure even the tiniest trickle from springs...

The extent and degree of the drought is seen in the obvious desperation of long queues that form in rural villages when government or military trucks arrive with tankers carrying precious water supplies.

The water shortage is so widespread that rations often have to be limited to a meagre 25 litres per family — expected to last four long days. Because of the size of many rural families, that in reality comes down to only 2 or 3 litres per villager — or little more than half a litre per person a day.

"And that," Mr Abrams notes, "is not only for drinking-water or tea or coffee. That also has to suffice, somehow, for washing, scrubbing clothes and cooking. Very often there's nowhere near enough water to cook the scarce mealies and food scraps on which many villagers are struggling to survive. The potential health as well as malnutrition hazards are enormous.

"The drought crisis in many rural areas is sadly underestimated in the big metropolitan centres, protected by sophisticated water supply systems and with the cash to buy food in the supermarkets.

"But if solutions do not come in time, with rains or successful new boreholes, there will be no possible way to avert a mass rural exodus.

"More funds and more volunteers are vital to keep assistance and technical operations running at full speed."

For Len Abrams, the operation comes as a dramatic initiation as the first executive director of the Consultative Forum on Drought Relief, which has thrust the problem to the top of a growing list of priorities.

Fortunately, a background as a qualified civil engineer and director of the Rural Advice Centre has made him the ideal candidate with the practical knowledge and experience to head the hand-picked task force out on constant assignment from a special operations centre established in Pietersburg.

Hard labour . . . getting water from a spring in Lebowa. It is covered with thorns at night to prevent wild animals taking the precious liquid.

Mr Abrams has already succeeded in bringing in specialists from overseas to join local engineers recruited from various government departments and the private sector.

Engineers from Germany were among the first arrivals to be shocked by the extent and degree of the drought crisis. From Britain, engineers from the crack volunteer unit known as the "Red R" — the nickname of the Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief, with long experience of global emergencies — have joined the operation.

International Executive Services, another crack unit of volunteers, has sent in more than a score of professional engineers from posts around the world. And now the United States government has pledged to send in a team.

The huge operation marks the real launch of the Consultative Forum on Drought Relief, which was created out of a special conference co-hosted by the Independent Development Trust and the Kagiso Trust three months ago as the urgent need for emergency measures became a national concern.

It also marks a breakthrough in efforts to bring together all the main players and persuade them to leave their political differences on one side while they combine forces in the search for solutions.

Somehow, the forum succeeded in bringing as many as 68 organisations to the conference table to agree on an action programme — covering a spectrum that spans the whole gamut from the ANC to various government departments, from the trade unions to the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

"By striking at least a temporary peace accord between all the players," says Mr Abrams, "we believe we can finally push ahead with an action plan that cuts straight through the red tape and bureaucracy that has held government initiatives in slow motion."

The forum has laid plans to launch a series of five special task forces, each assigned to tackle one of the specific problem areas that have been spotlighted by the drought crisis.

The issue of water supplies has been the first item on the agenda, but expert teams will also concentrate on practical solutions to malnutrition, short and longer-term plans for the future of agriculture, answers to the unemployment caused by the drought as well as new approaches to job creation, and a concerted study of socio-economic development as a whole.

"It's much more than merely yet another discussion forum," adds Mr Abrams. "It's a think-tank that intends to turn theories into practice — and at full speed.

"The next priority will be to ensure full participation at down-to-earth community level, where voices have been ignored for far too long." □

Venda's instant pension millionaires

(113)

STAR 10/8/92

Homeland leader Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana and six other government employees became millionaires overnight after the privatisation of the Venda Civil Service Pension scheme, the Sowetan reports today.

Foreign teachers and members of the military council who did not contribute to the fund have received nearly R15 million. Beneficiaries include the councillor for law and order, Major-General Gerson T Ramabulana, and the deputy commissioner of police, Major-General P J Nembambula, according to the report.

The report says thousands of labourers who did not contribute also benefited.

Brigadier Ramushwana says he received only R10 000. The Sowetan says it has proof he got R1,2 million. — Staff Reporter.

Venda denies big payout claims

(113) CT 11/8/92

PRETORIA. — The Venda government has defended itself against charges that the privatisation of its pension scheme would result in the top seven civil servants becoming instant millionaires.

The privatisation scheme was a completely above-board and professionally-designed exercise which would not result in any civil servants getting cash payouts, government spokesman Colonel Brian du Toit said yesterday.

He was reacting to a report in the newspaper the Sowetan that seven civil servants would receive payouts of over R1m as a result of the privatisation.

The fund has 24 000 contributors and has a total value of R780m. The highest beneficiary will be Venda's military leader Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, whose share amounts to over R1,2m.

Fears about the consequences of reincorporation into SA sparked the government's decision to privatise the scheme.

Du Toit said civil servants were given the choice of either remaining with the fund, converting their share of the fund into retirement annuities or converting their shares into investment packages.

The formula for calculating what share of the fund each civil servant would be entitled to was devised by a reputable firm of brokers, he said.

Venda defends its pension scheme

B/DAY 11/8/92 (113)

TIM COHEN

PRETORIA — The Venda government yesterday defended itself against charges that the privatisation of its pension scheme would result in the top seven civil servants becoming instant millionaires.

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He was reacting to a report in the Sowetan newspaper which stated that seven civil servants would receive payouts of more than R1m as a result of the privatisation process.

The fund has 24 000 contributors and a total value of R780m. The highest beneficiary will be the territory's military leader, Brig Gabriel Ramushwana, whose share of the scheme amounts to more than R1,2m.

The government's decision to privatise the scheme was sparked by fears about the consequences of reincorporation into SA as well as a desire to make it more flexible.

It is believed that senior civil servants feared they might lose their fund contributions on reincorporation, or that Venda's financially sound fund might be merged with others in the region whose financial status was in doubt.

Du Toit said civil servants were given the choice of remaining with the fund, converting their share of the fund into retirement annuities or converting their shares into investment packages. The formula for calculating what share of the fund each civil servant would be entitled to was devised by a reputable firm of brokers, mainly in terms of current salaries.

There was therefore nothing underhand about the scheme, Du Toit said, pointing out that the fund consisted primarily of contributions made by civil servants.

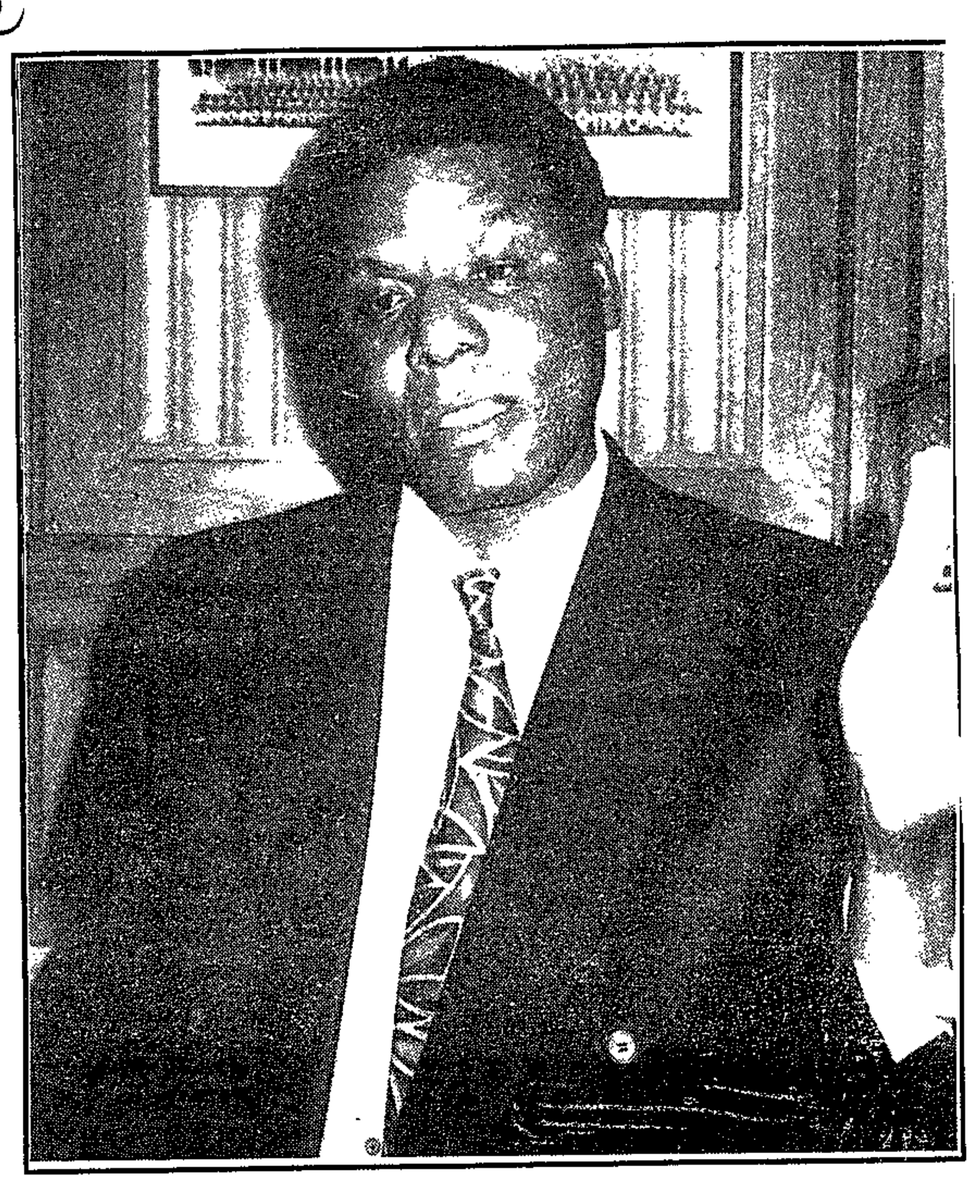
The Sowetan's report that non-contributors to the fund also would benefit from the scheme was incorrect, he said. The error arose because a list of salaried state employees had been used for the initial calculations, whereas not all employees were contributors. The error had been rectified, he said.

The scheme was announced about three months ago and most civil servants had already chosen which option they intended to follow.

NEWS ANALYSIS Millions paid out to homeland leaders and other civil servants

11/8/92

Trade unionists who have formed a coalition to fight for justice in the pension scam.



Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana ... military ruler and millionaire.

Citizens rise against Venda millionaires

(113)

Sowetan 11/8/92

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

VENDA has seven new millionaires, all of them male civil servants.

This is thanks to a new pension scheme devised by the military junta, whose head, Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, is one of the lucky seven.

But the enrichment scheme has met with fierce opposition from junior civil servants, who say the method used to calculate the benefits is designed to favour the top leadership.

Teachers, clerks, and postal workers have formed a coalition of unions to fight the implementation of the programme.

The Post and Telecommunication Workers Association (Potwa), Black Educationists Convention (Becon), South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) and the Venda Public Servants' Union (Vepsu), have already forced the government to call a moratorium on its implementation.

The moratorium has fuelled an insurance war, with the companies insisting that those contributors who are satisfied with their benefits should be allowed to sign them over to insurance institutions of their choice.

There is a collective shock and anger by residents and workers of the bantustan, that a pension payout of a civil servant can somehow swell to a million.

This is the full list of the new millionaires and those who received above R500 000; Two of the high earners were identified in numbers only, without names.

Gabriel Ramushwana: R1 249 790.

Deputy Police Commissioner Maj Gen PJ Nembambula: R1 182 264.

Councillor for Police, Maj Gen GT Ramabulana: R1 150 901

Mr JN Ndwammbi: R1 124 355.

Mr EE Maimela: R1 095 756.

Mr MWJ Ramulifho: R1 060 723.

Mr MR Madula: R1 066 009.

Mr EBT Ravele: whose benefits were initially calculated at R661 946 but later increased to R989 245.

Mr UM Ramaite: R980 771.

Mr LS Ramavhoya: R946 135.

Mr NP Vele: R884 058

Mr J Marema: R884 054.

Mr MA Mahosi: R856 612.

Mr SE Moeti: R853 420.

Mr MJ Maiwashe: R822 035.

Mr JVN Mulaudzi: R774 557.

Mr TR Tshivhase: R763 005.

Mr T Mathagu: R762 450.

Mr AK Madzaga: R757 300.

Mr ND Makwarela: R751 632.

Mr JM Nevondo: R738 937.

Mr PG Ramabulana: R720 341.

Mr SJ Mulaudzi: R704 116.

Mr MN Tshikororo: R702 146.

Mr T Nditwani: R693 281.

Mr AN Ravele: R691 742.

Mr LJ Nemaorani: R673 873.

Mr WR Sigwavhulimu: R668 233.

Mr CR Rabada: R657 431.

Mr Ramaano (no initials): R639 215.

Mr TT Lidzhade: R620 913.

Mr MM Sinomadi: R615 046.

Mr SN Nelufule: R613 337.

Worker No:91004005: R598 872.

Mr NA Mutakusi: R588 467.

Mr PR Ramabulana: R582 845.

Mr RF Nemuhuyuni: R576 524.

Mr SM Thavhana: R575 134.

Mr ST Ntsandeni: R571 735.

Worker No:10002959: R570 863.

Mr KW Mudau: R562 526.

Mr SS Dzumba: R556 756.

Mr DN Maphiri: R550 337.

Mr MD Nemauluma: R548 941

Mr TLS Radzilani: R542 470.

Mr NP Ranwashe NP: R542 386.

Mr RN Netshituni: R541 661.

Mr MN Khohomela: R531 403.

Mr VM Mphadzha: R526 552.

Seventy-five foreign teachers were given a total of R2,37 million. One teacher, who was the only contributor, got R153 804, after 12 years of contributing. The others received payouts although they did not contribute.

The pension battle has seen insurance companies accusing each other of bribery.

INSURANCE RIVALRY *Finance companies jostle for a share of scheme to enrich top officials:*

Sanlam, the company with whom Ramushwana has invested his R1,2 million benefits, is said to receive preferential treatment by officials.

Government officials are also accused of placing a moratorium on processing of documents submitted by all other companies while Sanlam documentation gets through.

Responding to these allegations, Ramushwana said: "We have declared a moratorium because we want all mistakes to be rectified.

"This moratorium will remain in force until I get a report from the department of finance that all is now okay. This moratorium affects all insurance companies and if Sanlam is having some deals with clerks that is news to me and it would be wrong."

Told that his councillors who attended a meeting with insurance companies had encouraged the latter to go on signing clients so that the government could use the documents to destroy the union coalition, Ramushwana reiterated that this would be wrong.

The pension issue has become extra sensitive in the region. Insurance salespeople are working flat out to get civil servants to sign up with them.

An invasion of white brokers, especially from Sanlam, has led to bitter rivalry and accusations that these men only want to sign up people for pensions and would leave and not be available for day to day services.

Ramushwana said the competition between insurance companies had led to the formation of Vascom, a committee of government and insurance representatives, which looks into problems affecting both groups.

He denied that his government favoured Sanlam and said Sanlam's edge was due to the fact that it controlled the money being dished out.

Sanlam was not available for comment.

PEOPLE'S LIVES *As Katiza Cebekhulu languishes in a prison, his family sits, waits and prays*

■ PARENT'S PAIN *A mother's heart bleeds when she ponders where her son could be and prays daily for his safe return home:*

Mom's searing

Sowetan 10/8/92

By Ruth Bhengu

WHEN JOYCE Cebekhulu's eldest son, Katiza, left home to escape the violence that was ravaging the Natal Midlands, she thought he would be away for only a few months.

As soon as things settled down, Katiza would be back home.

Instead, the teenager who headed for Johannesburg ended up as a co- accused in the Winnie Mandela kidnap and assault trial and later fled the country.

To date Joyce has not seen her son. She has received neither letter nor message from him.

All she knows about Katiza is that he is somewhere in a Zambian prison.

In the three years since he has left Hammarsdale, Katiza has become known internationally. Various individuals and political or-

Scarlet pimpernel

SO MUCH has been said about Katiza Cebekhulu, yet so little is known about this young man who has earned the dubious title of a scarlet pimpernel. Cebekhulu (24) shot to prominence during the sensational Winnie Mandela kidnap and assault trial. He was one of the accused. But he did not stand trial. Instead he disappeared and is reported to be in a Zambian jail where he is being kept "for his own safety", according to the Zambian government.

Among those who want him sent back to South Africa are the family of the slain health secretary of Azapo, Dr Abu Asvat, and the police who are re-opening investigations into Asvat's death.

Cebekhulu, who has linked Mrs Mandela to Asvat's death, could help the police and other interested parties tie a few loose ends.

Just before the trial in February he was seen with wounds on his head and an injured right arm.

He said he had been doused with boiling water and shot in the arm. Then he disappeared.

A month later Zambian journalists traced him to a hotel in Lusaka. He told reporters that ANC members had spirited him out of the country.

He was subsequently reported to be in a Zambian prison where the government kept him "for his own protection".

While Cebekhulu languishes in jail his distressed mother hopes and prays.

Sowetan 10/8/92

NEWSANALYSIS From a lowly cop in barracks to a palace and R1 million pension payout

Venda ruler's rags to riches story

Sowetan 10/8/92

■ MILLIONAIRE COP *Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana's dream has come true:*

(113)

By Mathatha Tsedu

MANY A YOUNG constable dreams of being a millionaire as he sleeps on the cold bunk of the police barracks but very few live to see their dreams come true.

Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana is someone who did.

This military ruler of the northern Transvaal bantustan of Venda is a classical example of the cop who made it to the top and did so in a big way.

For him, the adage of rags to riches has come true. Today he is a millionaire, thanks to a new scheme devised by his military government to privatise pensions and pay out benefits to contributors' insurance schemes.

Gabriel Mutheiwana Ramushwana today lives in a palace built for the president of Venda at a cost of nearly R700 000. The residence which was put up in 1979 is a far cry from the three-roomed Harper mining village house near Messina where he was born and grew up.

Well-kept lawns

The well-kept lawns and flower beds that blend with the natural vegetation of the area are as far removed from the dusty streets of yonder as chalk is from cheese.

This soldier, who left school after receiving his Junior Certificate and joined the SAP in 1966, today not only dines with kings, but is considered one himself.

Even his tastes have changed. No more pata pata and the Mahotella Queens for him. He now enjoys Beethoven and the music of other classical composers.

He supports the Northern Transvaal rugby team, otherwise known as the "Blou Bulle", according to his official curriculum vitae. The CV also adds, as if it was an after-thought, that he supports Kaizer Chiefs too.

Born in 1941, Ramushwana completed his Standard 6 in 1958 in the border town of Messina and went to the then Vendaland Institute for his JC.

He worked as a clerk at a Messina mine for three years before joining the police force. Transferred to the security branch in 1967, Ramushwana rose through the ranks and earned himself notoriety as a ruthless interrogator and smooth operator who even infiltrated the ANC in exile.

Bent on destroying

He transferred to the Venda National Force in 1978, a year before the bantustan was granted the independence that he is now bent on destroying.

In 1985 he transferred to the Venda defence force and was immediately promoted to the rank of colonel and in the same year to chief of staff.

He took over Venda in a bloodless coup on April 5 1990, promising to stamp out corruption and the self-enrichment tactics of the deposed rulers.

He also promised not to move into the palace and to stop all promotions and salary increases, promises that he has so far failed to live up to.

In a palace

Today he lives in the palace, earns more than R135 000 a year and is a brigadier who is addressed as the Right Honourable, appendages that came with the office he now occupies.

A soldier making his living from a salary of just more than R6 000 a month at the time of the coup, Ramushwana is today a millionaire through his pension.

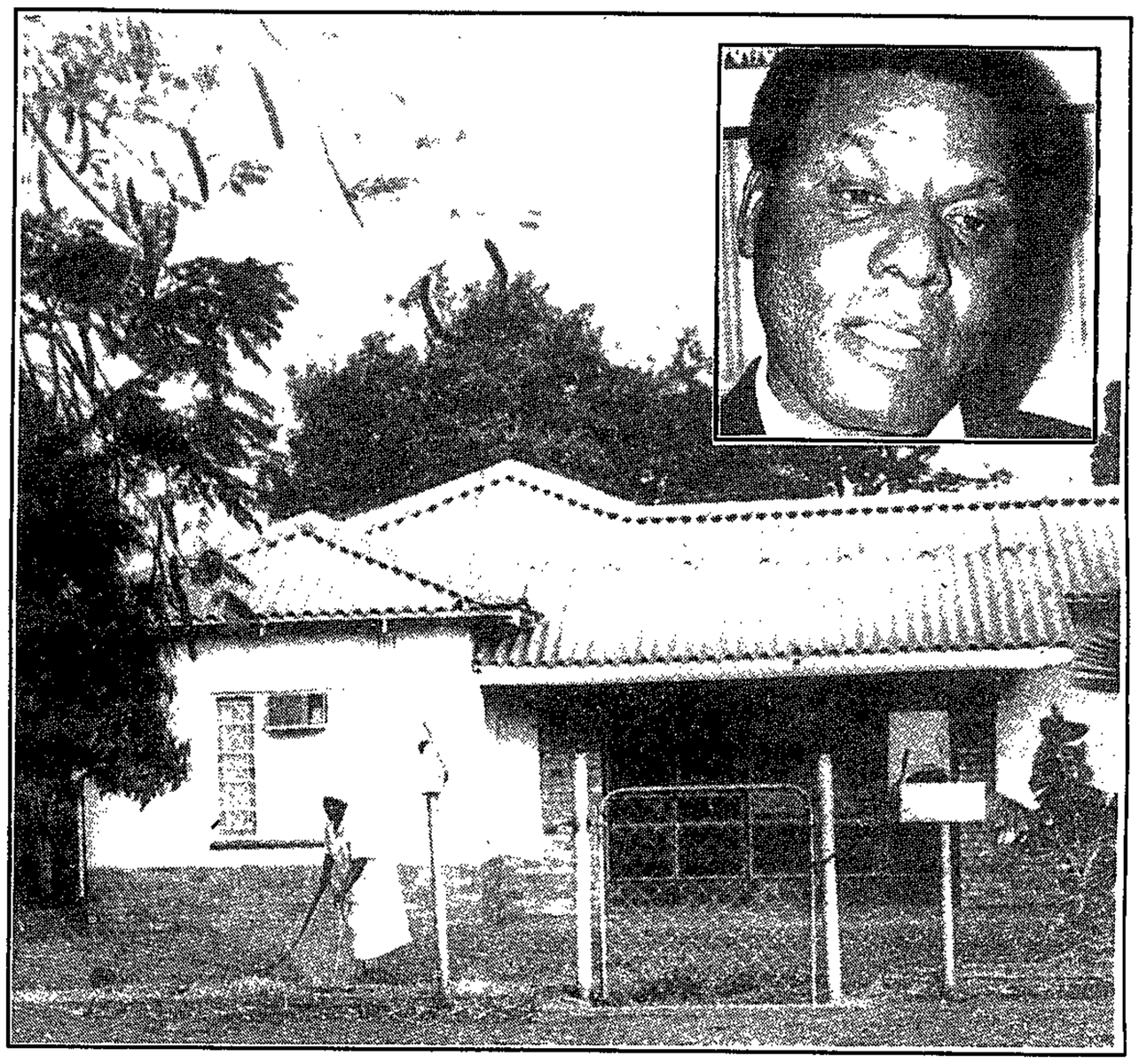
He has bought a house in the previously whites only Backview suburb of Messina. He is renovating the house, fitting fancy French doors and dotted the expensive garden with braai stands.

Who ever thought that a soldier's pension could swell to a million rand in one lifetime!

Pay packet

Total number of contributors: 24 000
Total value of pension fund: R780 million
Highest benefits paid out: R1 249 790 to Ramushwana
Total single millions pay out: 7
Amount paid to non-contributing foreign teachers: R2 372 668
Highest amount paid to foreign teacher: R82 860
Total amount paid to non-contributing local teachers: R80 430
Total number of people who received more than R500 000: 49

> **"He also promised not to move into the palace and to stop all promotions and salary increases, promises that he has so far failed to live up to"**



MAIN PICTURE: The house that Brigadier Ramushwana bought in Messina. INSET: Ramushwana

Cardiologist goes on to bitter end

(113)

Sowetan 24/9/92

■ SPEAKING OUT *Univen council chief Dr Thanyani Mariba speaks out:*

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

DR THANYANI JONAS MARIBA is a man with impeccable credentials.

The first black cardiologist in this country, Mariba (42) was elected chairman of the council of the University of Venda last year.

It is a non-paying responsibility which, however, demands and consumes most of his time.

He was not worried about that. He saw it as one of those responsibilities one has to serve your people.

That was until July this year when students started calling him names and a dictator whose council should be disbanded.

He is very bitter about the treatment he has received from the students and wants to get out of the council.

On the other hand, he feels he has started something as chairman and should see it through to the end. Many other people urge him to stay on.

According to Mariba, also a senior doctor at the Tshilidzini Hospital, his trouble started when his council, with his concurrence, started to trim the budget for staff members, especially the rector, Professor PW du Plessis.

"We had found that the rector was entitled to drive a BMW 375i which costs over a R250 000. The rector was entitled to buy the car at a third of its original price after the vehicle had done 120 000 km.

"Now, everyone can tell you that for that sort of car, that mileage is nothing. We found that the rector was getting a new car almost every two years and decided we should change this.

"The University of the North did not have a similar scheme and a car bought for the rector was used for 10 years," Mariba added.

The rector also moved from the official residence and wanted the university to furnish his own private house as if he were staying in the official residence.

He also wanted two servants, his telephone and rates paid for.

Mariba's council refused to endorse that. The council also reduced car allowances for other black senior staffers who became disgruntled.

"It is an unbelievable situation," Mariba said.

"We have on the campus university employees who are given very expensive cars which they drive around at all times without having to pay for anything. Not even for petrol.

"After 120 000 km they were also entitled to buy those vehicles at ridiculously low prices. We found that there was gross abuse, where people would drive to Cape Town instead of flying, simply to push up the mileage quicker to bring forward the takeover date.

"A university like ours can't afford that and we trimmed it down. We became the unpopular council in our efforts to save the university money," Mariba added.

Mariba said his council also fought for the disbandment of a special committee of council that looked into the salaries of senior personnel. Three of the five people who served on the committee were employees who were virtually setting their own salary increases.

After complaints from students against Du Plessis last year, his council, which included students representatives, appointed a commission of inquiry to look into the students' complaints, corruption on campus and other allegations of improper promotions.

The commission is headed by Johannesburg advocate Mr Barry Jammy, assisted by another advocate Ms Mathilda Masipa. When the commission started its work, the principal refused to testify and students took a similar stand.

Students also demanded that the dean of the faculty of arts, Professor SP Olivier, be expelled from the campus. He was accused of racism.

Mariba's council took the view that the matter was unproven and should be referred to the commission which could investigate it thoroughly and make recommendations.

Students were angered by the council's attitude and calls for its demise surfaced.

Also, in April this year, Du Plessis approached the council with a list of about 30 black staff members due for promotion.

Dr Thanyani Mariba

Mariba explained that the council felt as the commission was looking into promotions, the matter should be put in abeyance until the commission had completed its task.

"We said the promotions, if they were found to be legitimate, would be backdated," he explained.

This angered the affected people, who also swelled the ranks of the anti-council brigade.

Mariba said he failed to understand the role students were playing in the campaign for the dissolution of the council.

"What we are trying to do is save the universty's credibility and its resources from individuals who seem bent on making a killing out of the institution.

"In these efforts, we are battling against a bureaucracy that seems bent on frustrating all efforts to get a glimpse of the goings on in there and students call us pigs and sell-outs for that.

"It is a terrible thing and one feels almost betrayed. But then maybe the leadership of students have something to gain from this stand, but for the rest of the students and people of this area, there is a disinformation campaign that has blurred the issues," he said.

Mariba said he was surprised by the attitude of the South African embassy, which had also entered the fray on the side of students and the rector.

"It is easy for us to understand their stand as it seems to stem from a need to protect certain white officials of the university. That should open the eyes of the students and make them realise how they are being used.

Tomorrow: We speak to the student leaders and the administration.

Letter led to student uproar

■ Rector denies persistent rumour that he was behind controversial message from Government:

THE FOLLOWING is the full letter sent by the South African embassy to the Venda govenment, effectively ordering the dissolution of the council of the University of Venda.

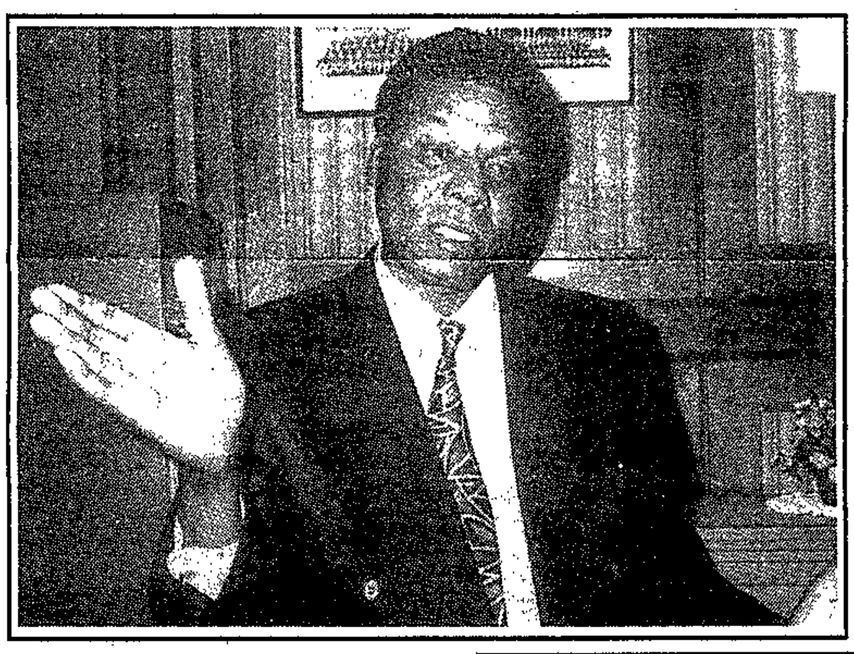
Sowetan 24/9/92

The letter has caused an uproar among students, who see it as an embarassment as it basically puts them on the same side as the South African Government.

While persistent rumours abound that the rector, Professor PW du Plessis, instigated the writing of the letter, he has denied this.

He told *Sowetan* he was not even aware that a letter like this had been sent.

The letter is dated August 24 and was sent to Venda military ruler Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana.



Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana

The full text

(113)

Sowetan today publishes the full text:

"THE Embassy of the Republic of South Africa presents its compliments to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Information of the Republic of Venda and has the honour to refer to the in-depth discussion held this morning between between the Right Honourable Chairman of the Council of National Unity, Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana and His Execellency, Ambassador Plenipotentiary, W Louw, concerning the volatile situation at the University of Venda.

In view of the demands put forward by the various constituencies at the University of Venda, eight members of the existing Council of the University voluntarily resigned, including the two Representatives of the Student Representative Council, as well as the two Representatives of the Staff Association.

Untenable position

Although the remaining members of the existing Council constitute a quorum, the position became untenable for the effective administration of the University due to the fact that the Vice Chancellor and Principal, Vice Principal together with the three Registrars, could from now on, after their resignation, not participate in the various Committees of the said Council.

It is therefore proposed that the Government of Venda dissolve the existing Council of the University of Venda by requesting the remaining members of Council to resign in order that an Interim Council could be appointed.

In the event of the dissolution of the existing Council, another Committee of the said Council - the Commission of Enquiry to determine the future role of the institute - would also be dissolved.

It is further proposed that if the latter dissolution of Council is accepted by the Venda government, that the Councillor responsible for Education and Culture, should call a joint meeting of the proposed representative constituencies nominated by the University of Venda to constitute an Interim University Council.

Shortlist of names

After consultation with the Councillor for Education and Culture within the Council for National Unity, a shortlist of names would then be forwarded to the Chairman of the same Council for ratification, in order that section 9 of Proclamation 14 of 1991 could be amended, to establish an Interim Council.

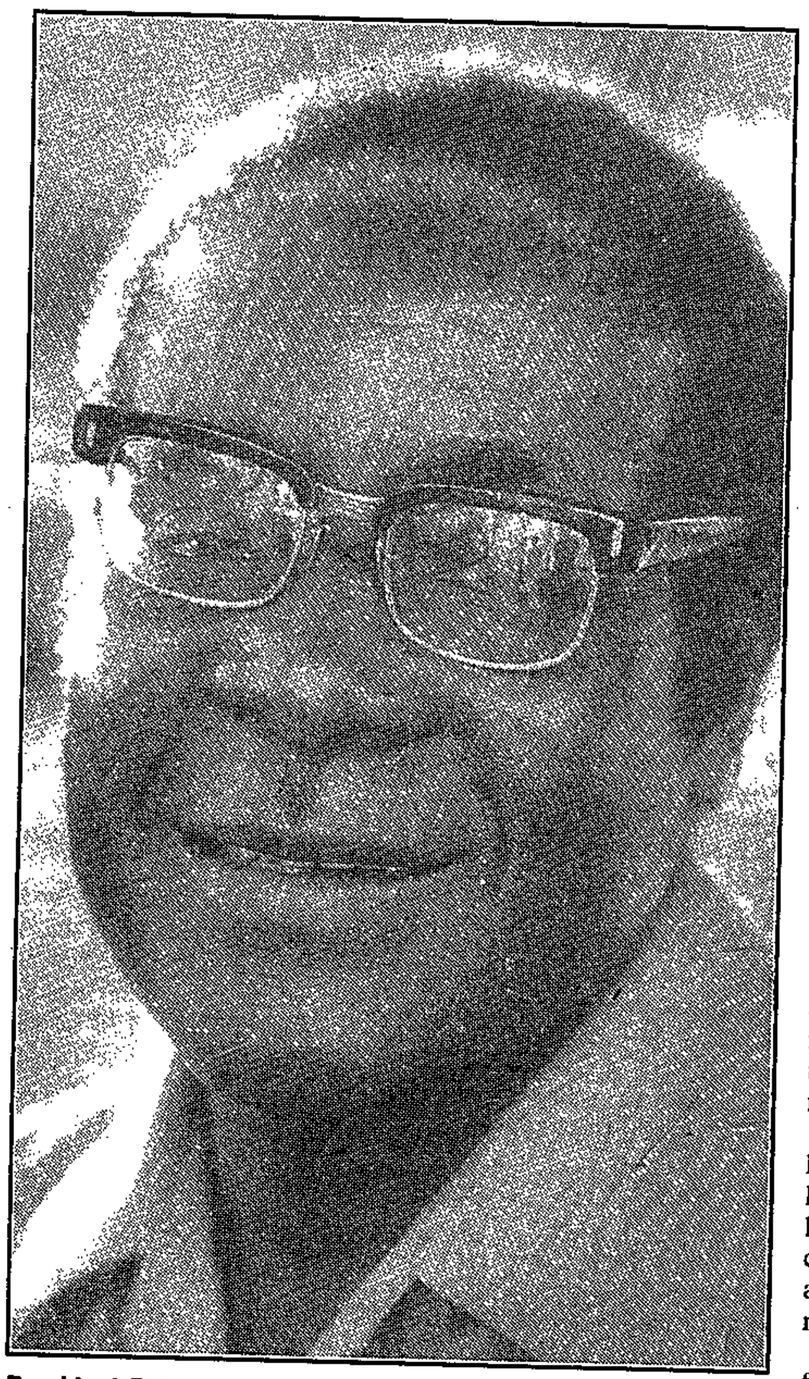
In the event that the Government of Venda implements the abovementioned measures at the University of Venda, no managerial problems including the boycots (sic) and stay-aways would be implemented.

Mass action

In short, further mass-action would be defused by this action.

The Embassy of the Republic of South Africa avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Information the assurance of its highest consideration".

NEWS FEATURE As Mugabe increases food allocations, his minister cuts back on rations



President Robert Mugabe ... ordered rations to be increased.

Officials blunder as Zimbabwe kids starve

Sowetan 24/9/92

GOING HUNGRY Food aid fiasco:

CHINGELE (Zimbabwe) - A Shangaan girl with a finely chiselled face, perhaps in her late teens, managed to free her hands from the twins, one in the crook of each arm, and squeezed her breasts.

"I can't feed them any more," she said. "My milk is finished."

Kim Garrs, a voluntary worker for Life Sowing Ministries, a church from the town of Chiredzi, two hours drive away, assured the girl they would be fed regularly.

"They're minute," she remarked. "They're six months and the size mine were at two months."

The church's arrival with a drought relief operation at Chingele village, an isolated collection of huts in a flat sea of bare earth and leafless mopani trees, a communal area in Zimbabwe's arid Lowveld, was nicely timed for the drying up of the young girl's milk.

Any longer and the twins would have looked like the other under-fives in the village: painfully thin, lifeless, dull-eyed, with lustreless skin and beginning to display the change of hair colour and the disproportionately large heads, certain signs of critical malnutrition.

In early July, Department of Social Welfare officials registered 900 Chingele villagers, mostly children, for full drought relief rations of mealiemeal, soya beans and oil.

> **Zimbabwe is failing to prevent famine and starvation through mismanagement, red tape and corrpution**

The department has delivered two weeks' supply of food - and only mealiemeal without the other supplements essential for nutrition.

Chingele is lucky, said Ropafadzo Magwasa, another charity helper from Chiredzi. It has a borehole and people are able to grow tomatoes and spinach.

"Down the road is a village where we heard three children died last week. No, it's not official. They (the villagers) just bury them without reporting."

The children of Chingele are disturbing evidence that Zimbabwe, despite its relatively sophisticated infrastructure and diverse economy, is failing to prevent malnutrition, famine and starvation through a combination of mismangement, red tape and corruption.

Increasingly, the charge is made that people are dying when they need not have.

This does not seem to be a perception shared by the World Bank; the United Nations' World Food Programme; the US Agency for International Development (Usaid); and Baroness Lynda Chalker, British Minister for Overseas Development who was at Chingele last week, all of whom have warmly praised the government's drought relief effort.

But every day reports in the usually pro-government *Herald*, the country's largest daily newspaper, pinpoint areas where large numbers of people in places far more accessible than Chingele go without food for days on end because government relief supplies fail to reach them.

The circumstances are sometimes bizarre.

The *Chronicle*, the western city of Bulalwayo's daily paper, reported on Monday that over 500 children from the Insuza resettlement area on the city's northern outskirts had been registered by Ministry of Health officials as malnourished.

The childrens' names were forwarded to the district administrator's office at Tsoholotsho, 80km away, which administers Insuza and which has large stockpiles of mealiemeal.

But delivering to Insuza entails sending the food back to Bulawayo - from where it came originally - so the children of Insuza stay hungry.

Bureaucracy is compounded by corruption. In Wedza in the northeast, several councillors and officials of the ruling Zanu (PF) party are due to appear in court for stealing 66 bags of maize.

In Gokwe in the north, village officials have allegedly charged drought relief recipients for "transport" of their rations.

The state-run Zimbabwe Information Service reported on Monday that a seminar in the southern town of Masvingo heard evidence that nearly all districts throughout Zimbabwe reported theft of drought relief, while political interference had become a major obstacle.

And if the officials cheat, so do the villagers. At Sadza in the Midlands, villagers now have to fill in forms with details of their families so officials can check that they have not been inflated. In Bikita last week, a peasant farmer registered his pet baboon for drought relief.

Earlier this month, deputy Social Welfare Minister Florence Chitauro announced that allocations of drought relief would be cut from 15kg a month a person to 5kg - less than a month after President Robert Mugabe ordered rations to be increased to 15kg. She cited a shortage of maize and cash to buy it.

Many rural people discovered that the 5kg per month was per household, and not per person.

Zimbabwe has no armed conflict, it has an efficient road and transport system, supermarkets in the urban areas sell maize off the shelf and there are a few weeks' worth of consumption in the national maize stockpile, even though it may be a precarious supply.

Why, then, the question is being asked with growing anxiety, are so many Zimbabwean children beginning to resemble the children of Somalia and Mozambique? - *Sapa.*

Water crisis in Venda worsens

(113)

B/DAY 18/8/92

RAY HARTLEY

THE drought in northeastern Venda had lead to life-threatening situations, with about 7 000 people relying on less than two litres of water a day each for drinking, cooking and cleaning, visiting British engineer Ian Johnson said recently.

This was far below the 15 litres a person per day considered sufficient to maintain basic hygiene and health and much less than the 25 litres considered adequate for a normal existence, he said.

Johnson, who is working for the Water Supply Task Force — a joint government and community effort to maintain water supply in the worst-hit areas — said some local villages were in a worse state than drought-ravaged areas of Iraq and Somalia.

Water Supply Task Force co-convenor Len Abrams said vast areas around Giyani would be without water soon and there were no new water resources that could be tapped.

Temporary 8 000 *l* "bladder tanks" were being placed in critical villages where possible and old hand-pumps were being rehabilitated in an effort to deal with the crisis, he said.

The bladder tanks were acting as an emergency supply while engineers built concrete reservoirs and looked for alternative supplies, he added.

In one area of Venda, 5 000 villagers rely on one hand pump to supply them with all their water needs. Some are forced to queue for more than a day to get water.

Abrams also said emergency supplies to drought-stricken communities in the northern Transvaal would be cut off if R2m in bridging finance was not provided by government, business or independent funders soon.

He said the task force faced a cash crisis because an expected R25m in foreign funding had not materialised. Negotiations were continuing with donors for the R27m needed to provide emergency water supplies for the next five months.

In another development, the World Bank had told the Development Bank of SA (DBSA) it would not provide aid money until an interim government was in place, DBSA senior project manager Hannes Sauermann said.

Abrams said the task force had not received any of the R3,8bn in emergency drought relief money allocated by government.

However, government has already allocated R127m in drought relief to independent and self-governing homelands in the northern Transvaal.

A Development Bank source confirmed at the weekend that R55m had been allocated to Venda, R40,8m to Lebowa and R32m to Gazankulu.

"The central issue is we don't have any money anymore and we're on a very short lead," Abrams said.

'Racist' row threatens functioning of varsity

STAR 8/9/92.

By Willy Mashau
Northern Transvaal Bureau

THOHOYANDOU — The academic future of the University of Venda (Univen) appears to be in the balance as a stalemate has developed in a dispute between students and the university council.

The dispute, about the status of a lecturer, Professor S P Olivier, has been in progress since March this year. Students had branded Professor Olivier a racist and also criticised his attitudes regarding the admission of students.

Council chairman Dr Thanyani Mariba said Professor Olivier was given three months' special leave after the SRC insisted on his dismissal and an inquiry had been initiated by students. He said the students' allegations were invalid.

Since Professor Olivier's return from leave, students have refused to allow him on to the campus.

Professor Olivier recently restated his views on student admissions.

"To insist that any prospective students, including late applicants, have a natural right to be registered and accommodated is foolish — no university in the world admits all applicants," he said.

"In our case, the pathetic infrastructure makes this kind of demand laughable."

It has been confirmed that the principal of Univen, Professor P W du Plessis, has appealed to Venda leader Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana to intervene.

Professor Olivier has called for a mediator to resolve the dispute between himself and the students. Failing this, he said, he would seek a court interdict to enable him to return to the campus.

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R82-m for Bop drought relief

STAR 8/9/92

By Mckeed Kotlolo
Pretoria Bureau

Bophuthatswana's government has set aside R82 million for drought relief in the territory.

Minister of Agriculture Phineas oeketsi said more than half of the homeland's population, who lived in rural areas, were, together with their cattle, struggling to find food and water because of the drought.

Mr Moeketsi said R47 million would be spent on writing off the debt of producers whose crops had failed. Several schemes had been implemented at a cost of R32 million to assist livestock producers.

Another R20 million had been made available to ensure farmers had access to feed and R11 million had been put aside to buy beasts whose condition precluded their being auctioned.

Vaal rugby ca would-be robb

Pretoria Correspondent

Two would-be robbers who broke into the Moreleta Park, Pretoria, home of Transvaal captain Jannie Breedt fled empty-handed after the burly rugby player confronted them with his pistol.

Breedt was awakened at about 3 am on Saturday by the sound of movement in his home, police liaison officer Captain Faizel Kader said.

Grabbing his pistol, Breedt, a former policeman, went to investigate and discovered two men trying to manoeuvre his television set through the living room window.

Breedt gave chase when the two men fled, firing two warning shots into the ground.

Nobody was wounded and

SOWETAN Thursday September 17 1992

cial fracas ● Undertaker did not keep corpse in fridge

Homeless dentist dismissed from job

Sowetan 17/9/92. (113)

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

SILOAM HOSPITAL IN Venda, scene of the race bickering that led to the exodus of white doctors a year ago, is facing a new racial row.

A 28-year-old dentist from Maungani village, Mr Simon Mbulaheni Nemutandani, has been dismissed from his job after demanding to be housed in one of three empty houses at the hospital.

He told *Sowetan* that the superintendent at the hospital, Dr J Spivack, told him the houses were reserved for foreign doctors.

Three months ago, a black Zimbabwean doctor who was staying in one of the houses was allegedly hounded out by Spivack, leading to the doctor's transfer to Tshilidzini hospital.

The Director General of the Venda department of Health, Dr GJG McCutcheon, denied that racism was the basis of Nemutandani's summary departure from Siloam.

But Nemutandani, who qualified at the University of Western Cape this year after a six-year stint, said he was convinced that the house was being denied him because he was black.

MEDICAL PROBLEMS Venda's a population of 500 000 is serviced by only three dentists:

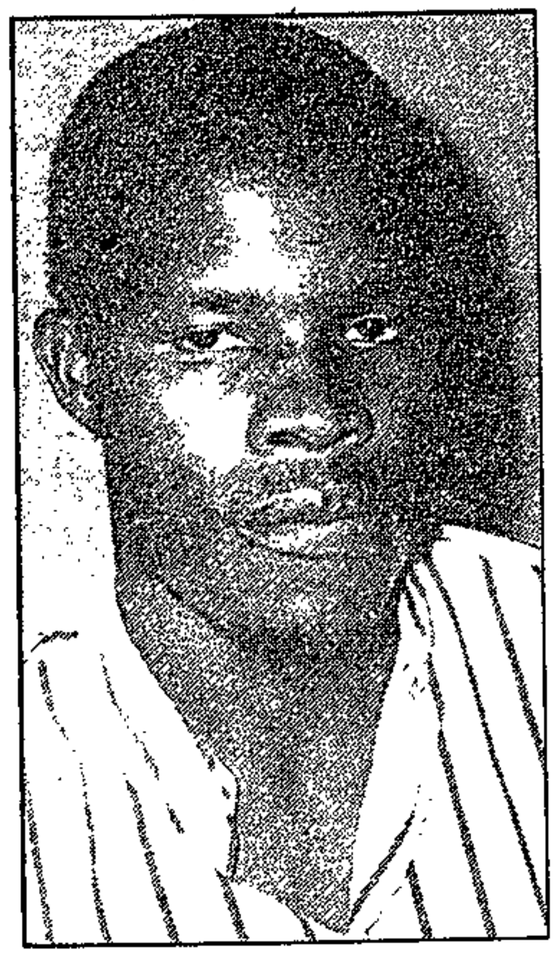
"I was told I could travel from home which is over 30 kilometres. Later I was given a rondavel with no ventilation which I refused. There are three houses standing empty but somehow I was found to be unfit to stay in any of those.

"When I finished studying, I told myself that I wanted to serve in a rural setting where the need for dentists is much higher. But I do not think so anymore," Nemutandani said.

Mc Cutcheon pointed out that dentists were not normally housed, although exceptions were made when houses were available. He said the only house available at Siloam had already been allocated to a doctor who was on study leave.

Venda presently has three dentists serving over 500 000 people in the bantustan.

Mc Cutcheon said the case involving the Zimbabwean doctor was still a subject of an internal hearing.



Mr Simon Nemutandani

Land of a thousand streams runs dry as drought crisis grows

STAR 21/9/92 (113)

By Peter Wellman

THOHOYANDOU — The Vondo Dam is down to 1,23 percent and dropping fast, threatening water supplies to the Venda capital's 200 000 people.

There is strict rationing, and water is laid on only from 6 am to 11 am each day.

Water tankers loaned by the SADF make daily deliveries in Venda, but even then some people are down to 5 litres or less a day. After cooking and drinking, there is not much left over for washing.

Temperatures are rising daily with the approach of summer. Last week it was around 33 deg C indoors.

One plan, if the Vondo Dam dries up, is to commandeer private boreholes, whose owners sell water at 20c or 25c for 20 litres, but no one knows exactly how many private boreholes are in the area.

There are 22 public boreholes around Thohoyandou, which civil servant Dr John McCutcheon, chairman of Venda's drought crisis committee, describes as "high-yield". But he says the situation is critical.

Venda is the land of a legendary 1 000 streams, and water supplies differ from district to district. So water is pumped into Vondo from the the much fuller Tshakuma Dam, about 30 km away.

The pipeline runs along the top of the Soutpansberg, although, because of a kink, both dams lie south of it. There are two pumps but one has broken down, and the steel pipe leaks. All are second-hand, bought from a mining company.

The pipe is about as wide as a domestic bucket, but the water takes up less than half of that, and there is controversy over how many litres a second it is delivering.

Ian Johnson, one of seven British drought relief engineers helping out in northern Transvaal, thinks it might be as low as 15 litres a second. Five of the engineers returned home at the weekend after two months' sweat to get water supplies going again.

Mr Johnson and colleague Geoff Allison will stay on until the end of the year: Mr Johnson in Venda and Mr Allison in nearby Lebowa.

Dr McCutcheon says each pump pushes out, theoretically, 45 litres a second. He told The Star yesterday that the pipeline, boosted by mid-week drizzle, was delivering up to 60 litres a second on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. But the water level had still dropped from 1,3 percent on Wednesday to 1,23 percent on Friday.

The British engineers, paid for by the British government and supported by the SA Department of Water Affairs and the private sector, have been hamstrung by lack of equipment, says Mr Johnson.

He has only one drilling rig for central Venda, and has managed a borehole a day for the two weeks he has had it. But about half of them have only enough water for a hand pump, which produces about 4 000 litres every 10 hours.

That is not much, he says, when some villages have 4 000 people.

In the north of Venda, the Red-R team has a second rig, but it keeps breaking down, and has managed only one borehole so far, Mr Johnson says.

More equipment has been promised by the Department of Water Affairs, including a testing rig for the holes that have been sunk. Without that, the engineers do not know how "wet" the holes they have sunk are.

Mr Johnson says the water situation in Venda is as bad as in Somalia and Ethiopia. The difference is that there is more food around, and rural families helped out by migrant workers can buy food from stores.

Even so, says Dr McCutcheon, more than 5 000 people in Venda are receiving monthly food packages. And 200 tons of animal fodder is being sold to farmers each week at subsidised prices.

Venda gets ultimatum to scrap varsity council

Sowetan 21/9/92 (113)

By Mathatha Tsedu

■ **RESPONSE AWAITED** University Consultative Forum sets Friday as deadline to disband body:

ACTION which has not been specified will be taken unless the council of the University of Venda is disbanded by Friday.

This ultimatum to the Venda Government was issued by the University's Consultative Forum comprising students, management, academic staff association, administrative staff, Azasco, Sasco and Paso.

They have called for the immediate disbandment of the council, accusing it of being undemocratic.

Reliable sources disclosed that the forum at a meeting last Thursday also decided that a council meeting scheduled for Friday should not be held.

Instead, a "shadow council" elected by the forum would have a symbolic meeting on Friday to decide on the response that may have come from the Ramushwana regime.

It is understood the Venda Councillor for Education, Chief Peter Kutama, met the university chancellor, Mr Walter Sisulu, last week over the demand for the dissolution of council.

Sisulu is the deputy president of the ANC.

The outcome of the meeting between the two men was not known at the weekend.

It is understood the chairman of the council, Dr TJ Mariba, has asked that a council meeting be held outside the campus on Friday to discuss matters affecting the university.

The choice of venue was to ensure that students did not disrupt the meeting.

Trouble at the university started in July this year when the Consultative Forum decided that the council, appointed last year after demands for the democratisation of the university's statutory bodies, should be disbanded.

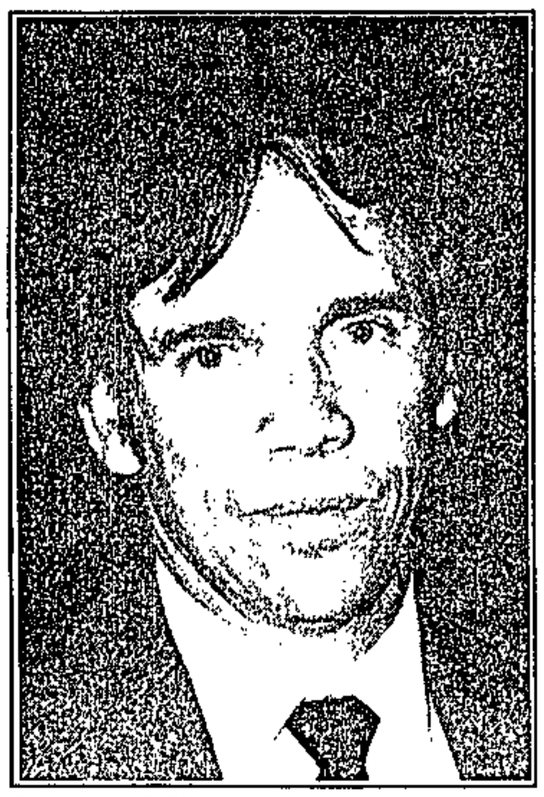
A memorandum was handed to Kutama's representative after a march led by the rector, Professor PW du Plessis. The memorandum also called for the dissolution of the commission of inquiry appointed by the council to investigate several allegations of misconduct and corruption on campus.

Both Du Plessis and the SRC have since refused to give evidence before the commission composed of two advocates.

The South African Embassy in Venda has sent a letter to the Venda Government supporting the call contained in the memorandum.

NEWS ANALYSIS *Events at University of Venda look like scenes from Alice in Wonderland*

SRC president Jason Ngobeni



Professor SP Olivier

Chairman of the University of Venda council Dr Thanyani Mariba

Students remain a dissatisfied lot

Sowetan 23/9/92 (113)

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

TAKEOVER TWIST *We look at the background of the University of Venda which may soon come to a standstill:*

IN AUGUST LAST YEAR, students at the University of Venda were out in force calling for the immediate dismissal of their rector, Professor PW du Plessis.

Also last year, the students demanded the disbanding of the council of the university and took part in the appointment of a new "democratised" council.

The students, and their rector, as part of the new council, also appointed a commission of inquiry which is looking into various facets of the university operation.

Fringe benefits

By August this year, however, the students were marching, led by Du Plessis, demanding the immediate disbanding of the council they appointed last year.

The new council has drastically cut down the fringe benefits of the rector, including his car allowance.

The students, together with Du Plessis, have also refused to testify before the commission whose appointment they instigated last year as part of their anti-Du Plessis campaign.

What has caused this turn around by students, which has them now in an alliance with the rector they wanted kicked out?

It is also an alliance which has resulted in another ironic twist to the story.

The embassy of South Africa - and therefore effectively the FW de Klerk Government - has sided with them on the demand for the dissolution of the council and its commission of inquiry.

According to Student Representative Council president Mr Jason Ngobeni, Du Plessis is a changed man who now supports "progressive ideas".

This despite the fact that he is a National Party supporter to boot, with connections that go straight to the NP powerhouse - the Cabinet.

Ngobeni was embarrassed by the embassy link. The embassy sent a letter to the Venda government insisting that the students' and rector's demands be met.

However, many in the council, ordinary students and other people, allege that the student leadership has aligned itself with Du Plessis because they are given an almost free reign with university property, especially cars.

What is happening at the University of Venda? Formed in 1981 as a branch of the University of the North, it became an independent entity the same year, with 181 students.

The university has had six councils, with the latest one chaired by respected cardiologist Dr Thanyani Mariba. Mariba was elected chairman in June last year, after the university community called for the dissolution of its predecessor, saying it was government created.

> **Rector now marches with students who demanded his dismissal**

Mariba's council included people such as attorney and ANC economic advisor Mr George Negota, Agriven's head of special assignments Dr Alidzulwi Thomas Naledzani, businessmen and others representing schools, donors, and so on.

The three, Mariba, Naledzani and Negota, are independent thinkers who are prone to probe.

Immediately after taking office, the council probed into the benefits of the rector and implemented severe cuts.

Some of these include:

* Instead of the R257 950 BMW 735i, they gave him the lesser 730i, saving R34 000.

● The cancellation of a scheme whereby the rector bought the vehicle at a third of the original price after 120 000 km or three years, whichever came first.

● Refusal to buy furniture for the private residence of the rector after he moved out of the official residence. The official residence has been standing empty for over a year and is being vandalised. It is valued at R600 000 and despite repeated advertisements, no buyer has been forthcoming.

Strong opposition

● The dissolution of a special committee of council, populated by appointees, which deliberated on salary increments. Du Plessis and his deputy as well as the registrar of finance, were all members. The council felt they were deliberating over their own salary increments and dissolved it despite strong opposition from Du Plessis.

The council also appointed a commission of inquiry to look into corruption allegations which included degrees for cash, unprocedural promotions and related matters.

The students also chased away the dean of the faculty of arts, Professor SP Olivier, accusing him of racism. The students called on the council to confirm the expulsion but when the council called for procedures to be followed, they lost favour with the students, who also sit on the council as full members.

Olivier's expulsion is now a subject of a Supreme Court application by him, contending that the university should make it possible for him to work.

What are the real issues behind this battle?

TOMORROW: Council chairman Dr Thanyani Mariba, the administration and students put their cases.

Venda water crisis

ABOUT 114 villages in Venda are without natural water sources as springs, rivers and boreholes have dried up because of the drought ravaging the homeland. (113)

Lack of rainfall in the homeland has also resulted in falling dam levels. Sowetan 23/9/92

According to statistics released by the homeland administration, the Vondo Dam's water level has fallen to an all-time low of 1,2 percent. The dam is the sole source of water supply to about 200 000 people around the greater Thohoyandou area.

The only dam with more water is Tshakuma which is 63 percent full. Other dams such as Nwanedi, Luphephe and Mutshezi are less than 30 percent full.

Venda's Drought Crisis Committee chairman Dr John McCutcheon disclosed that the affected villages were now being supplied with drinking water by road tankers.

Venda dams dry up

Sowetan 24/9/92

■ WATER RATIONING Water is available for only five hours a day:

113

By Don Seokane

About 114 villages in Venda are without natural water sources as springs, rivers and boreholes have dried up as a result of the drought ravaging the bantustan.

Also lack of rain in the homeland has resulted in falling dam levels. According to statistics released by the homeland administration, the Vondo Dam water level has fallen to an all-time low of 1,2 percent.

Sole source

The dam is the sole source of water supply to about 200 000 people around the greater Thohoyandou area.

The only dam with more water is Tshakuma which is 63 percent full. Other dams such as Nwanedi, Luphephe and Mutshezi are less than 30 percent full.

Venda Drought Crisis Committee chairman Dr John McCutcheon disclosed that the affected villages were now being supplied with drinking water by road tankers.

McCutcheon said during the 1991/2 rainy season Venda received 19 percent or less of its average rainfall and that the drought had a devastating effect on almost every facet of life in Venda.

The Vondo Dam water level was dropping in spite of the strict water rationing around Thohyandou.

When an ambitious pipeline project of pumping water from Tshakuma Dam to Vondo Dam was planned, it was envisaged that it would boost the sagging Vondo Dam level.

However, McCutcheon disclosed that even with the pipeline project pumping 24 hours a day with one of its two high pressure pumps and 22 high-yielding boreholes pumping directly into the dam's reticulation network, the dam's water level was still falling.

Strict rationing

The Tshakuma Dam pipeline project has increased the inflow to Vondo from 22 cubic litres per second to just over 50 but still McCutcheon warned there was a need to conserve as much water as possible until rains come.

There is strict rationing in the homeland, with water being available only from 6am to 11am daily.

University SRC supports rector

Sowetan 25/9/92. (113)

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

■ FAKED CHANGE *Some students do not agree that the institution's rector, a NP member, has embraced change:*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE Students Representative Council of the University of Venda, Mr Jason Ngobeni, is a soft-spoken man.

Sitting behind his desk in the SRC offices, this final year commerce student who is in his sixth year at the institution, comes across as a man to be believed - albeit with difficulty.

During the interview he asked to be excused and went outside to chastise some students who were sitting in a university car drinking beer.

It was a car he had been using for a number of days, a car he was to use that day to drive to a job interview with the Midrand-based Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Process of trimming

From Midrand Ngobeni travelled to Windhoek, Namibia, to join his colleagues who went by bus on a trip wholly sponsored by the university. Estimates for that trip and another one that took a group of students to Zimbabwe the same weekend, stand at R60 000.

Ngobeni has been accused of being the blue- eyed boy of the rector, Professor PW du Plessis.

The assertion is that after the university council started a process of trimming expenditures, Ngobeni and Du Plessis became bosom friends.

Ngobeni's seemingly unlimited access to cars belonging to the university is conspicuous.

Fringe benefits

It dates back to when the council started the battle to trim fringe benefits of the rector and senior staffers.

The rector and other affected staffers opposed this vigorously. Ngobeni and his council stood steadfastly behind him. He even marched with the rector demanding the demise of the council.

The irony is that less than a year ago, Ngobeni and his colleagues were marching to demand the dismissal of Du Plessis.

We asked him why.

"The action against Du Plessis last year was because he had revealed a master plan that would have reduced this university to a technikon.

"We have to realise that this university is in a conservative area, with many right-wing whites.

"We cannot tolerate them here. The rector saw a need to change his attitudes and indicated this.

"He has become more relevant to changes on campus. He has now embraced progressive ideas," Ngobeni said.

Embracing progress

A National Party supporter embracing progressive ideas?

"Yes", said Ngobeni but other SRC members present begged to differ. They said Du Plessis was faking this change.

Ngobeni's SRC had also, as part of their fight against Du Plessis last year, called for an inquiry into Du Plessis's attitudes and work.

When the matter was brought to council, the council appointed a commission of inquiry with a much broader mandate that included corruption and promotions.

University of Venda SRC president Jason Ngobeni.'

One would have expected the students to welcome this commission and work closely with it. Instead your council has refused to testify, as has Du Plessis. Why? we asked.

"Students felt, at a mass meeting, that the commission would be too expensive. They also felt that some members of council were hijacking their demand for an investigation into Du Plessis, for their own ends, hence the broadening of the scope of the commission.

"The students, however, did not say the commission should be disbanded.

> **"We support the cuts regarding expensive cars for staffers, including the rector's"**

We simply resolved that we would not testify. Our decision as students had nothing to do with the rector's decision not to testify," he added.

But if you do not testify before the commission, how does it work? Would you recognise their findings? we asked.

"We were not opposed to the commission in principle but saw that certain members (he refused to identify them) of council were seemingly bent on using it for personal battles with staffers. Students were alarmed that the commission could cost about R100 000 while we needed hostels and other facilities," Ngobeni said.

If you were against excessive expenses, why fight against a council that is reducing costs of the university?

Ngobeni said the council enjoyed the full support of his SRC in its drive for expenditure cuts.

"We support the cuts regarding expensive cars for staffers, including the rector. But we found that, more and more, the council was emerging as a forum where individuals were pursuing their own goals.

Stopped promotions

"It showed us that the efforts last year to democratise the council had not succeeded. It was on this basis that we felt the council should go.

"The council had also stopped promotions," asserted Ngobeni.

Turning to the expulsion of Professor Olivier, who was hounded off campus for alleged racist remarks, we asked Ngobeni if the SRC did not believe in the principle of innocent until proven guilty.

"Of course we do. But students feel that there is no way Olivier can come back here after insulting people, calling us foolish."

We asked him about the job the rector allegedly arranged for him at the DBSA.

"It is not true. I went there for an interview with other final year students from here and other universities. I do not even know that I have a job there yet as results are still outstanding," he said.

On Monday

University administration replies

Venda varsity principal axed

STAR 28/9/92

THOHOYANDOU — Venda University principal and vice-chancellor Professor P W du Plessis was dismissed on Friday by the university council after months of quarrels between himself, the council and the homeland government, a council spokesman confirmed yesterday.

He said Professor du Plessis was dismissed for refusing to co-operate with a commission of inquiry into alleged mismanagement.

Venda University sacks vice-chancellor

(54) (113) CT 28/9/92

THOHOYANDOU. — Venda has dismissed its university vice-chancellor, Professor P W du Plessis, suspended the director of public relations, Mr Rufus Kharidzha, and disbanded the SRC.

The head of the agricultural corporation, (Agriven) Mr Mabaga Mamburu, was reinstated despite an inquiry finding that his post was non-existent.

Sad chapter of Univenda is over

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

FLAMING FURORE *Once proud learning institution bows it head:*

THE FURORE which has engulfed the University of Venda led to the sacking at the weekend of the principal, Professor PW du Plessis, and the closure of the institution.

And the man at the centre of it all, Du Plessis, has so far been unavailable for comment on allegations against him and on general conditions at the university.

Sowetan has been investigating the affairs of the university for nearly a month. During this period, over 10 attempts were made to have an interview with Du Plessis to no avail.

Several phone calls have gone unanswered and an attempt to stake out his office also failed. We met up with him at the Supreme Court of Venda where one of his underlings had brought a case against the university.

Mind preoccupied

Du Plessis said his mind was preoccupied with the court case and he could not give "a useful interview". But he did deny involvement in the embassy intervention in the dispute.

He said once the case was over, he would be able to talk to us. This has not happened. Subsequent calls also went unanswered.

Then last Friday he was summarily dismissed after storming out of a council meeting, allegedly saying a forum of students and staffers had decided that the council no longer held sway at Univen.

Now he is no longer principal. We wanted to find out from him why he participated in the march against the council, why he refused to testify before a commission appointed by the council to look into problems on campus.

We also wanted to know how he felt about the trimming of his fringe benefits, about the alleged blocking of an insurance company which wanted to build hostels, in favour of another which had more stringent conditions.

We have in our possession a confidential report relating to an inquiry done by the Government in Pretoria, which resulted in Du Plessis being summoned in 1988 to explain his role.

> **"Students are co-governing the university. Anyone who thinks he can run it without their support is just dreaming"**

Sowetan 29/9/92

He has not been available to speak to us.

In the absence of Du Plessis, we spoke to Mr Rufus Kharidzha, the public relations director, about the state of affairs at the university.

Council members

Kharidzha, who was accused of instigating council members to resign, has been suspended.

Kharidzha said the furore over the council was that while students had participated in its appointment, they now felt the rules were promulgated without their consent.

Kharidzha said Du Plessis' participation in the march against the council was the decision of a consultative forum formed by students and staffers.

He said students were a powerful force on campus because they sit on the council and also had mass support in terms of student numbers.

"They are co-governing the university. And anyone who thinks he can run this university without their support is just dreaming," he added.

Kharidzha said the university management was part of the consultative forum and went along with the decision. It was this meeting that chose Du Plessis to lead the march.

Turning to the commission of inquiry, Kharidzha confirmed that Du Plessis had refused to testify but said he did not know why.

"I know that instead he had lunch with the commission chairman to apparently explain his position. He said the student battle with the council had intensified after the council refused to sanction the expulsion of Professor SP Olivier, who was accused of racism."

Asked about his own role in getting council members to resign, Kharidzha said he had only phoned one business person, who represented the University Foundation, of which he is the executive director.

"The consultative forum had said if council members refused to resign, students would embark on mass action against the businesses of these people. I did not want to see this happening and that is why I contacted this man.

"As executive director of the foundation I knew that we (the foundation) would be able to send him back again as our representative to the council. This is what I told him.

Drafted letter

The man said he would resign and asked me to draft a letter to that effect for him and I did," he said.

Kharidzha said this was not done to undermine the council but to save a man who, he felt, was offering the university many things, including a R5 000 prize for the best commerce student.

He said as far as he was concerned, council was not functional anymore. Several subcommittee meetings had not taken place and this showed that the council was ineffective.

Kharidzha must be remembering these words now. For on Friday, the council sat and decided, among other dramatic decisions, to suspend him for involving himself in the council debacle.

Today, the university is closed, Du Plessis fired, the alleged racist Olivier due back. What happens now? Only time will tell.

No hope from Venda's sky

STAR 30/9/92. (113)

Senior Star Reporter PETER WELLMAN spent four days in water-starved Tovhowani village in Venda to get a feeling of the drought in the heat and dust.

TALL and angular, the old hand-cranked borehole works like a 3 m praying mantis rocking in the hot, dry wind.

It is driven by a long metal rod, a single spoke in a childrens' merry-go-round, and the village women take weary turns to trudge the circle in twos or threes. Then someone makes a joke, and the rod spins as the pushers work off the laughter.

Mostly, though, it is just a slog in the dust.

Water gushes out twice with each revolution, filling the 25-litre plastic containers that everyone uses, in less than two minutes.

The load weighs 25 kg and is carried home on the head — eyes down, for nobody bothers to search the sky for rain. Someone is, making a fortune selling the containers at R7 each.

This area is one of the driest in Venda, and there is a queue at the borehole day and night.

Rations

It is the only one still working in this village of 600 people and it is drained mercilessly as families insure themselves against the day it goes dry.

It is no use relying on Venda road tankers for water — none came from September 9 to 23. On the 23rd one came hooting up the hill and poured its 4 500 litres into the plastic village reservoir holding exactly that amount.

It returned eccentrically the next day to top it up.

There is a mealiemeal-and-soup feeding scheme for the village primary school, but no rations have arrived since the first week of August, according to Tovhowani's Zion Christian Church preacher Daniel Rambao, who doles out the rations.

He also rations the water when the tanker comes.

The village runs along the barbed-wire fence separating Venda and Gazankulu, placed precisely there, dividing families, in the lunatic style of Spike Milligan's book "Puckoon" on the division of Ireland.

It is so dry that a starved and stumbling cow no one could get a rump steak from almost fell under our car on the way in. It left behind droppings so meagre they could be from a buck — a sure sign it is going to die, according to the villagers.

I am told the area is beautiful when it rains, there are sweet berries on the musuma tree, wild figs, and lots of honey.

But for now not one stick of maize, not one vegetable, has come up this year, and desperate families without support from migrant labourer fathers are hacking down trees wherever they find them to sell to families who have that support.

The [illegible]t is devastating, about 4[illegible]ent of the trees are gone, and an ecological disaster threatens.

The response of one Venda official supposed to be handling drought relief was to say he would launch an educational programme against tree cutting. What good is that when hungry people need money for food?

Somehow the primary school has three teachers for 40 children. The teachers have no English or Venda grammar books and no syllabus. They copy each week's classroom schedules from colleagues in the Venda capital, Thohoyandou, 35 km to the north-west. Transport costs R150 a month from a salary of R1 400.

There are two neat classrooms taking children up to Std 2, and to one side are six tidy walled toilets in a line.

But dumped on the other side, as if everyone is ashamed of it, is the final-year Std 3 classroom, a doorless old wreck of a room with holes in the walls and the roof.

Desks are carried there each day, and locked in the other classrooms at night. When it rains everyone gets wet — not that anybody would mind right now.

Twelve women run a primary health care group. They know all about the sugar, salt and water mixture for children with diarrhoea.

They inspect Tovhowani's homes for cleanliness, and teach women to make the sort of fried chicken that migrant workers get in the cities and even to make a homemade body lotion from soap and paraffin.

This is imaginative stuff, initiated by the Venda government. And one wonders why this same government could not be bothered to deliver emergency water or food supplies on time. □

Long haul . . . Mashudu Rambao (4) slogs several kilometres each day with a load of wood to cook the family dinner. Picture: Peter Wellman

Venda capital parched

B/DAY 9/10/92 (113)

RAY HARTLEY

AS MANY as 300 000 people in the Venda capital of Thohoyandou could be without water soon if emergency efforts to pump water into the Vondo Dam fail.

Consultative Forum on Drought spokesman Louise Colvin said yesterday a Development Bank scheme to pump water into the dam, which supplies the entire city, failed after pipes burst earlier this week. Frantic efforts to restore the water supply, including opening boreholes, were being carried out by emergency teams.

"If there is a power failure, which is a distinct possibility, the pumps will stop and the pipes could burst again."

Colvin said the whole of Venda had been thrown into a severe water crisis with the Phiphidi Dam, which supplies a vast area, completely dry and the Vondo Dam at 0,71% of its capacity.

The forum is a joint government and community initiative to combat the effects of the drought.

Colvin said government would have to mount a major rescue operation if the dam dried up. Water rationing had been tightened. Thohoyandou residents could use taps only between 6am and 9am. There was insufficient water pressure to move the water to the entire city. More than half its residents were in need of new water sources.

Tension rages on Venda campus

Pres 11/10/92

By MOSES MAMAILA

THE University of Venda resembled a police barracks this week as tension between students and the authorities raged on.

According to university spokesman TP Nyelisani the police were called on to the campus to protect lives and property. (113)

The university was closed about two weeks ago following a council meeting which dismissed the rector Prof PW du Plessis and publicity director Rufus Kharidzha.

The institution was scheduled to be re-opened on Thursday after students had completed forms ordering them to abide by conditions set out by the authorities.

However students defied this and had to be released after they had burnt the forms and demanded the unconditional re-opening of the university. They also insisted that two students – including the SRC president – who were expelled on Wednesday, be allowed back on campus.

Students have accused the council of adopting a "military" stance by banning the SRC and all meetings on campus.

The university authorities have threatened that should classes be disrupted again, the institution would be closed for the rest of the year.

VENDA'S DROUGHT CRISIS: PUNISHMENT FROM GOD, OR A MAN-MADE DISASTER?

Prayers for rain. But is God to blame?

W/mail . 23/10 – 29/10/92 (113)

Drought-stricken Venda villagers kneel in the dust to pray for rain. But relief experts say they're aiming their pleas in the wrong direction.

CAROL GALES *reports*

Bad planning ... Engineers argue that the Venda government could have averted disaster by drilling and equipping boreholes

Photos: GUY ADAMS

IN the sun-baked Venda village of Folovhadwe, people gather in the dust beneath two spreading mulubi trees and beg God to make it rain.

"Because of this drought we are crying," a man tells the crowd of about 350. "Some people are dying. The cattle are dying and goats are dying also. So we need to pray to God — we need to be broken, to pour out our hearts."

Hymns and scripture readings stretch to an hour. The children, sitting with plastic containers they take to school for "drought mielie meal", grow restless.

But all are attentive when the minister closes his Bible and pauses. "We are going to pray for rain now," he says. "We are going to cry to God for rain." Eyes closed, he extends his hands and utters a rhythmic litany of sorrow and entreaties.

Fervent, mumbled prayers rise around him. One boy sits with his eyes closed and forehead wrinkled, moving his lips. An elderly man sitting on a tree root puts one hand over his eyes and his prayers flow in a steady stream. When the minister is silent, the people keep their eyes closed, praying aloud and repeating their request.

But when they open their eyes, the sky is still cloudless. Despite the prayers for rain throughout the homeland, initiated by the Venda government, they are still sizzling in Venda's most brutal drought on record.

Ninety percent of the homeland's 400 villages get less than 15 litres of water per person daily. In some places, the rate is one litre. That's like having three bathtubs of water for an entire year.

The dam supplying the 400 000 residents in the capital of Thohoyandou is 0,5 percent full and tap water is available for five hours a day. Even Thohoyandou's water supply falls below the United Nations standard for refugee camps, which is 20 litres per person daily.

Experts helping with water-relief efforts say the Venda people are aiming their pleas in the wrong direction. In spite of the drought, they insist, there would be plenty of water if the homeland's government had invested in a system to provide water during dry spells.

They blame the water shortage largely on the Venda government's incompetence and the racist indifference of officials seconded from South Africa.

"Not much of it has to do with the drought," says Ian Johnson, a British engineer who has helped develop water systems in drought-stricken Somalia and Iraq. "Three-fourths of it is man-made."

Johnson and others accuse the Venda government of spending too much money and effort building a R2,7-million system to transfer water to the Vondo Dam, which serves Thohoyandou, from another dam 8km away.

Vondo is a vast, empty cavern. Normally, the water would cover the backs of the cattle now grazing near the far end of the long valley. But now the water stands in a metre-deep pool against the high dam wall. Runoff water from the nearby hills — including water pumped over the mountains from the Tshakhuma Dam — splashes in a little stream moving at about 90 litres a second.

Government officials have called the transfer project a success, though admitting it had a slow start because of malfunctions in the second-hand pipes and pumps used. The project is "the only solution for our problem at the moment," says works director CJ Mathee.

Johnson comments that this kind of "success" would not be tolerated in most South African cities.

"Everyone has some taps at home, but there's no water," says Rejoice Nemukula, a waitress at the Venda Sun Hotel who lives in Tsianda, near Thohoyandou. Her taps work once every three weeks, she says, so she must fetch water from another village "a long distance from our home" in a 25-litre plastic container.

Crying to God ... Children clutching on to containers they take to school for relief food join Folovhadwe's prayer service

Nemukula's story incenses Johnson. Government officials "keep saying the people of Thohoyandou will have to learn to tighten their belts" and wait for rains and the transfer project to fill the dam, he says. "That's just rubbish. They've totally failed. They're only raising the water by restricting it."

"Johannesburg and the PWV area are experiencing the same drought as Venda, but long-term provisions have been made there" and residents needn't worry about water restrictions this year unless the summer rains don't come, says Gary Bing, a senior engineer with the Department of Water Affairs.

Johnson came to Venda to work with the National Consultative Forum on Drought. He is employed by RedR, a British charity which provides experts to relief organisations.

He argues that the Venda government could have provided more water for less money by drilling and equipping boreholes. Thohoyandou's water system is too dependent on the expensive dam transfer system, he says.

After three months of working with white government officials, most seconded from South Africa, Johnson attributes their bad planning to indifference. "It isn't that they don't have any money. They just don't care. I think they don't even recognise that blacks exist."

This impression was reinforced, he says, by a white South African worker who remarked that if blacks were hard to work with, he could "just stick a tyre around them and get rid of them".

Johnson's frustration was compounded by the government's decision last week to raid other departmental budgets in order to drill boreholes for cattle, while so many people lack water.

Before he leaves Venda in December, Johnson wants to drill boreholes in at least 100 villages. His crews have been drilling for a month now and have found a number of promising boreholes, including one that will yield 46 litres a second. For just R3 000, it will provide half the amount of water now yielded by the R2,7-million Vondo Dam project.

"We'll put f[illegible] more water in this system than the government ever dreamt of," Johnson says.

Meanwhile, the people are still waiting. On a 5km stretch of road outside Thohoyandou, about 300 empty plastic containers are clustered around sluggish borehole pumps and the huge storage tanks that wait to be filled by government water trucks.

The area around Thohoyandou is deceptively green. Though the ground is mostly bare, drought-resistant trees and tough grasses manage some colour.

In the north of the homeland, things look grimmer. Most of the thorn trees are bare and their roots exposed. The ground is mere dust and rocks. In places, red sand dunes have drifted near the road and against the trees.

Folovhadwe, 10km east of the Nwanedi Dam, has an irrigation system that enables villagers to farm in the dry season. One diligent farmer has produced a tall, tassled field of maize.

But not all crops fare so well. In one field, the maize stalks are short, the leaves curled from the heat. An elderly woman hoeing her sweet potato crop says the tubers are stunted. She apologises that she has no gifts for visitors; normally she would offer mangoes, but the small green fruit on her trees isn't fit to eat.

Folovhadwe Clinic nurse Catherine Takalani Ravhuanzwo says the lack of food affects health in the village. "If it rains, there are green vegetables. Now there's nothing," she says.

About 40 of the village's 500 children display the fluffy hair and swollen legs and stomachs associated with malnutrition. More have typhoid, malaria, bilharzia and pellagra.

Many families depend on the mielie meal provided to schools by Operation Hunger and on food from World Vision, which supplies 50 tons to 3 500 people in 40 villages each month.

"The people used to have kraals of cows, but now they have little meat," Ravhuanzwo says. "They just let the cows go because there is no grass, no water. They cannot sell them. Some are just dying in the bush."

Men who go to the cities to find work often return after spending a week with a relative who also is unemployed, Ravhuanzwo says.

Adds the Rev MP Mavhetha, who led the Folovhadwe prayer service for rain, those who had jobs on farms and orchards or in canning factories in Messina have lost their jobs. "Because of this drought more people are coming back, not going," he says.

In Gaba, a village of 5 000 near Thohoyandou, the only people working are soldiers, teachers and policemen. A local teacher who is a Christian says: "I understand that these are the last days."

Added to the drought, hunger and unemployment is an increase in crime, he says. People are greedy. Government officials get free food and don't pay taxes, and they seem to care little about the people, he says.

"Evil is increasing. Wickedness is increasing." He sees the drought as a punishment from God.

For Johnson, who knows water flows under the ground, the source lies elsewhere: "It's certainly the boers' way of punishing the Venda people."

Venda protest halted

G 12/12/92

THOHOYANDOU. — A meeting here yesterday by about 20 000 Venda civil servants to protest against the privatisation of their pension scheme was disrupted by heavily armed police.

The meeting was called by the Venda Pension Fund Crisis Committee to report back on progress made after the plan by Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana to privatise the fund in April was rejected. (113)

The privatisation would reportedly have made Brigadier Ramushwana and six of his top officials instant millionaires. The plan triggered strikes and sit-ins at government buildings.

As the report was about to be read, Major Jerry Murulane of the Venda police stopped the meeting, ordered the crowd to disperse within five minutes and to meet on Monday.

He told VPFCC chairman Mr Sam Muvhango he had been instructed by Brigadier Ramushwana to prevent the report being read. — Sapa

Venda police launch teargas at protesters

STAR 15/12/92 (113)

THOHOYANDOU — Venda police fired teargas at thousands of civil servants who had gathered outside the government buildings yesterday morning to protest against the privatisation of their pension fund scheme.

Pandemonium broke out after the 500-strong contingent of heavily armed police officers fired teargas into the crowd. No serious injuries were reported.

A police source said large security force contingents had been deployed at the Shayandima, Sibasa, Makhado and Mutala centres to prevent more gatherings.

The Public Workers' Coalition Committee chairman, Sam Muvhango, said teargas canisters were fired into the crowd before any negotiations with the police could take place.

Yesterday's gathering was a follow-up to last Friday's mass meeting which was called off after police gave the crowd five minutes to disperse. — Sapa.

Leadership workshop

THE Pan Africanist Congress secretary-general Mr Benny Alexander, will conduct a workshop in Venda tomorrow on leadership training for the organisation's local executive members. Sowetan

About 250 members representing more than 40 branches in the Northern Transvaal region are expected to attend the workshop which starts at Mphephu Youth Centre in Klein Tshipise. 26/11/92.

Alexander will be accompanied by director of publicity Mr Bishop Toboti. (113)