

LAMONTVILLE — and what is really going on in the township

WHAT is generally not appreciated about the Lamontville issue is that KwaZulu has nothing to gain by its incorporation.

It was, in fact, a large group of residents of the township who, in 1978, petitioned the KwaZulu Government for incorporation.

When this request was passed on to the SA Government, the KwaZulu Government was told that a decision had already been taken to incorporate the township.

At no time was KwaZulu consulted by the SA Government regarding the handing over of the township.

When the Government made its in-

attention known, KwaZulu insisted on guarantees from the then Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr P Koornhof, that the residents section 10 rights would stand. Dr Koornhof gave KwaZulu an assurance that they would not be tampered with.

KwaZulu also made it a condition that it would be given financial assistance to improve the quality of life of Lamontville residents and that rents would be frozen and made to conform with the lower rental structures of other KwaZulu townships.

The Chief Minister of KwaZulu told Clarion Call: "We have nothing to gain by such a takeover... we are only ac-

cepting responsibility for our people wherever they are.

"By being incorporated into KwaZulu, at least the residents of Lamontville can be assured that they will always remain South African citizens."

At his recent meeting in Lamontville, Chief Buthelezi accused the Rev M Xundu, the leader of Lamontville's Joint Rent Action Committee (JORAC), of instigating trouble in the township.

The Rev Xundu and the Press had been given the impression that violence had erupted in Lamontville either because of him or because of opposition to him and Inkatha.

This was not true. It was the rent increases in Lamontville imposed by the Administration Board which led to the formation of JORAC.

"People have been at the receiving end of violence in this township since then and it escalated when bus fares were raised," added Chief Buthelezi.



Press photographers and television crews mobbed Chief Buthelezi when he arrived in Lamontville for his recent prayer meeting. The Rev. Xundu, Diakonia and the Press predicted violence. The meeting went off peacefully.

"The violence reached its highest point when Mr Harrison Dube, a civic leader, was murdered in Lamontville by certain people in cahoots with certain Transkeians.

"At Mr Dube's funeral, which Rev Xundu conducted, a teacher was murdered in the most brutal manner under the Rev Xundu's nose by the very Lamontville youth who are supposed to recognise his leadership."

"... at another funeral, also conducted by the Rev Xundu a week later, the same youths danced on the grave of this teacher.

"At the unveiling of Mr Dube's tombstone, in the presence of Rev Xundu, several Inkatha members were brutally hacked and stoned to death.

"Placards villifying me were carried in Rev Xundu's church and at the cemetery.

Chief Buthelezi said the issue of the proposed incorporation of Lamontville into KwaZulu was a "red herring" which suited the Rev Xundu, the church organisation Diakonia, various academics affiliated to the UDF at the University of Natal and the Black Sash.

In fact, in its 1984 annual report, Diakonia acknowledged that it was "privileged to play a supportive role to JORAC..."

That Rev Xundu had long been carrying on a vendetta and inciting people against him and Inkatha, had been proved by the recent statements of foreign delegates to the November 1983 ABRECSA conference at the Anglican Diocesan Centre at Kwa-Nzimela.

They had told KwaZulu Cabinet Ministers including Dr O Dhlomo, Dr F Mdlalose and Mr H Madonsela that it was the Rev Xundu who told them to

"flee" from KwaNzimela (in a well publicised incident one evening) because "... Xundu said Inkatha people were coming to kill us..."

Chief Buthelezi said in his address to the people of Lamontville that he was trying to show "that the game this gentleman of the cloth is playing is something he is adept at." Even the Mayor of Durban, Mrs S Hotz, had told him more than once that she felt the Rev Xundu was trying to use her.

JORAC REFUSES TO SIGN NON-VIOLENCE TREATY

AT a meeting in Durban, Lamontville's Joint Rent Action Committee (JORAC) refused to accept a proposal put forward by Inkatha that both parties agree to the following:

1. Their commitment to democracy and the right of any party to meet.
2. Their abhorrence to violence and their mutual determination to avoid violence, particularly on September 1, 1984. (When Chief Buthelezi was to hold a meeting in Lamontville.)

The six-hour meeting was held at the request of the Archbishop of Durban,

the Most Rev. D.E. Hurley, a patron of the Diakonia which supports the UDF. JORAC is also affiliated to the UDF.

The President of Inkatha attended the meeting in an attempt to quell the escalating, uncontrolled, violence which was erupting in Durban township over the issue of the incorporation of Lamontville into KwaZulu.

Chief Buthelezi said he "greatly regretted" JORAC's refusal to co-operate in trying to stop the violence.

Inkatha members had been instructed to avoid violence and he believed the proposals were reasonable.



Thousands of Inkatha supporters wound their way through Lamontville on their way to the meeting.