

NON - PROFIT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

grassroots

THE PAPER ABOUT YOU

Vol. 7 No. 7 September 1986 FREE!

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Quick cops prepare to invade the townships

VERY soon our townships will be teeming with new specially-trained policemen.

One thousand of them are being trained for three weeks. Their task: to fight the "comrades" in the townships.

Township residents view the decision to send in these policemen as a declaration of war on ordinary, peaceloving people.

"It is one thing to fight against criminals but it is a completely different thing to fight against peace loving citizens who are striving for democracy and freedom from all the people of this land," one woman said.

"Why did they not stop the witdoeke killing our people.

"Instead of fighting the government should

be making plans to talk to the real leaders of the people in the townships," a man said.

Residents feared that no one would be safe in the townships once the new recruits moved in.

"We have seen with the state of emergency how innocent people are detained without any reason.

"We have also seen how people have been beaten and shot in the past. There is no guarantee that this kind of thing will not happen again," said one.

Opposition organisations have warned the government that the problems in the townships will not be solved by sending in more police.

It would only be solved when apartheid is done away with and the real grievances of the people are addressed.

Their sons will hang



THESE two grandmothers - who have lived about 150 years between the two of them - have seen many things in their long lives.

But what Mrs Nettie Buyelwa Majola (right) and Mrs Emma Noma - Demfu Madikane (left) saw last week they will never forget. They were in the Cape Town Supreme Court when their sons, Desmond Majola, 27, and Dickson Madikane, 36, were sentenced to death with another man, Patrick Maginda, 23.

The three men and a 16-year-old youth had been found guilty of the necklace murder of a Bhonglolethu, Oudtshoorn, community councillor, Patrick "Big Boy" Marene. The youth is to be sentenced on October 14.

After the trial, the two women spoke to GRASSROOTS about the tragedy of life under apartheid in Bhongolethu township, where:

- "There is no work;"
- People have to walk long distances for water and don't always get it;
- Police and troops are present almost daily;
- Most people had to built their own houses.

Last year, Black Sash members Di Bishop and Molly Blackburn and Mrs Bishop's husband, Brian, collected a number of affidavits in Bhongolethu, alleging torture and assault by security force members.

Mrs Blackburn and Mr Bishop died in a car accident after their visit to the township, but Mrs Bishop

Mothers speak of the tragedy of Bhongolethu as 3 sentenced to death for necklace killing

continued the report.

She found that about 450 people - some as young as 12 and 14 - out of a total population of 4 000, were arrested during two military style operations in Bhongolethu last year.

"The Bhongolethu of 1985 is a product of horrible neglect which has resulted from apartheid.

"Instead of addressing the grievances of the Bhongolethu community, the government has employed increasingly repressive measures to deal with the manifestations of residents' frustrations.

"Massive SAP/SADF raids on the Bhongolethu community and the victimisation of children are serving to exacerbate an already serious situation," Mrs Bishop wrote at the time.

Majola, who worked at a concrete-making factory, had been the family's breadwinner. His mother and father are both pensioners.

Mrs Majola - who is about 70 (we had no birth certificates in those days and our parents never told us how old we are) - draws a pension of about R170 every three months.

The Majolas have nine children - five sons and four daughters but only one daughter remain in the house. The old coups now also have to look after their son's two small children.

Xola (Peace), five, and Violet, three, are too small to understand where their father is.

Dickson used to contribute to the family's income until he became mentally ill. Since almost two years ago, he hardly ever left the house, said Mrd Madikane.

Dickson has a six-year-old daughter, Nthombi, who stays with her mother.

Mrs Madikane fainted in court when Justice A H Lategan read out the death for the three men.

The woman said they only felt better after they saw their two sons the next day at Pollsmoor Prison.

"Our children are not bitter. They understand and have accepted their sentences. We stand by our children," Mrs Majola said.

The court found that the men had played a leading role in the mob which pursued Marene and killed him in November last year.

26 people were accused when the trial started early this year in Oudtshoorn. Eventually, only eight appeared in the Supreme Court. Two youths were found guilty of robbing Marene of his gun. The others were acquitted.

The families hope to appeal against the sentence.

NUM calls for day of mourning

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called for a national day of mourning on October 1, to honour the miners who died in the Kinross mine disaster last week.

177 miners died and hundreds more were injured in one of the worst mining accidents in South African history.

NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa said they had approached the Chamber of Mines to close all mines on Wednesday, October 1, to honour the fallen miners.

If the Chamber refuses, the NUM's 300 000 members would still observe the day of mourning, he said.

The Kinross incident has focused international attention on safety standards on South African mines and the nature of compensation for accident victims on the mines.

Families of the victims were paid out according to the miners' salaries, but because of the mines' racist policies, white miners' families are receiving much more than black miners' families, the NUM

said.

The NUM has pulled together a top legal team and have invited a team of mining experts from overseas to investigate the safety conditions of Gencor's Kinross mine to assist in possible legal action the union wants to bring against the bosses.

Ramaphosa said: "We believe this accident could have been avoided. It was completely unnecessary."

He said that conditions on the mine, especially on the level where the fire broke out which trapped the miners, were 'highly irregular.'

The company has denied this.

The UDF (Western Cape) said in a statement:

"Once again we see that the bosses have put profits above the safety of workers. While the mines make huge amounts from the rising gold-price, the workers never see the benefits.

"We join the National Union of Mineworkers in expressing our sympathy to the families', and our outrage at this tragic event."

Chaos over rent control

IN MARCH, Minister A Venter of the "white parliament" dissolved the Rent Boards in Coloured and Indian Group Areas throughout the country and declared that Rent Control was an "own affair".

The Bellville Rent Board (which used to cover all houses in Woodstock, Walmer Estate and Salt River) was

dissolved and then reformed for houses in white group areas only.

Many Landlords immediately took advantage and began raising rents. In one part of Woodstock rents were increased by about 400%

The Legal Resources Centre, assisted by the Woodstock Advice Office prepared to take the matter to court.

When threatened by

court action, officials of the "Coloured Parliament" had to think up something.

Dr Munnik, Minister of Communications and Public Works came to the rescue He announced that the "white parliament" would look after Rent Control in Coloured and Indian Areas.

A spokesperson for the Woodstock Advice Office advised tenants not to accept any increases or notices from their landlords that go against the Rent Control Act.

If landlords tried to evict tenants or increase rents illegally they should contact the Advice Office Forum tel: 637-2898.

The WAO is collecting information on the actions of landlords. The office at 171 Sir Lowry Road is open every Friday (four to six p.m.) and Saturday morning (10 to one). Anyone with information can also phone 46-6318.

8 children detained - Dad hangs himself

A PORT Elizabeth father - upset at the detention of all of his eight children - hanged himself.

But the police still refused to release his children from detention, not even to attend their father's funeral.

Mr Nyanisile Moko, 45, an ambulance driver for the Dias Divisional Council was found hanging from a rafter in his bedroom recently. Family members

said he had been depressed about the detention of his six sons and two daughters.

The family requested permission for the detainees to be temporarily released on humanitarian grounds to attend the funeral, but the police refused.

"We would not have minded even if they had been allowed to attend the funeral under police guard," a family member said.

Domestics to fight exploitation

A NATIONAL union for domestic workers could be formed before the end of this year.

Talks between domestic workers' organisations throughout the country have been going on for months and the organisers are keen to launch soon.

Such a union could become one of the strongest unions in the country, with a potential membership of one million. In Cape Town, it would include the 10 000-strong Domestic Workers Association and the S A Domestic Workers Association.

One of its first campaigns would be for a 40 hour working week and a minimum wage of R2,50 an hour. The current average wage is less than R100 a month.

Domestic workers have no legal protection of rights regarding wages, working hours, working conditions or living conditions.

In some areas, children as young as 12 years old are used as domestic workers.

Because of the growing unemployment and economic recession,

domestic workers are having to put up with more verbal abuse, sexual harassment and assault for fear of losing their jobs.

Nthombi Makwasa, Cape Town organiser of SADWA, said many workers came to their office in Mowbray to complain. However, many workers were scared to take legal action against their bosses.

"One woman worked for a man in Camps Bay for R30 a month. Then she still had to cook her own supper. She stayed in a damp, leaking garage where she had to use her own bedding.

"She contracted TB and had to be admitted to hospital. The boss dismissed her and threw out all the stuff.

"She approached us and is now claiming from the former boss."

Mrs Makwasa said the woman used to make ends meet by collecting old clothes after work and selling it over weekends so she could have some money for her family up-country.

"One woman was badly bitten by a dog. She was made to clean

up her own blood before she was sacked by her boss in Durbanville.

"She came to us, but was scared to make a case against her former boss. She said the boss would find out about it and get her for it.

"There are also many workers who work without getting paid. They work long hours and get little more than food and old clothes.

"One woman worked for three months without getting paid. She eventually got involved in a physical fight with her boss and got her money in the end.

"Often, the domestic workers are threatened with sex. One woman was waiting for her pay when the boss exposed himself to her and suggested that they have sex. She left without getting her money.

"These kinds of things are happening more and more as people struggle to find and keep jobs.

"Hopefully, when there is one national union, it will help to fight against these kinds of problems," she said.

Tucsa in trouble

NINE unions have withdrawn from the conservative Trade Union Council of South Africa this year and the federation has lost more than half its members in the last three years.

The Garment Workers Union of the Western Province recently became the latest union to break away from Tucsa. The GWU has more than 50 000 workers in the clothing industry. They have a closed shop agreement with most factories.

Tucsa, which has always been led by government supporters, has been troubled since the death of their last general secretary, Arthur Grobbelaar. They have also been hit by the people's rising political awareness and the growing support for the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU).

Three years ago, Tucsa had 478 420 members. Today they have only about 220 000.

Recently, Tucsa had

to cancel their congress which they planned to have in Cape Town. But Tucsa now has almost no more support amongst workers in Cape Town.


Some of the unions to withdraw from Tucsa in the past year are the Textile Workers Industrial Union (22 000 members), the National Union of Garment Workers (18 000), the National Union of Leather Workers (24 000) and the Tramways and Omnibus Workers Union (2 100).

The GWU said they withdrew from Tucsa to concentrate on local rather than national issues.

Observers believe that they have come under heavy pressure because of the growing support for the more militant Clothing Workers Union.

Clowu, formed in 1983, has challenged the closed shop agreement of the GWU and built up a strong influence on clothing workers.

1000's



turn out for Tutu

ABOUT 10 000 people attended an open-air service at the Cape Showgrounds in Goodwood on Sunday September 8 to welcome the new Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Desmond Mpilo Tutu.

Earlier in the day, almost 2 000 people had packed the St. George's Cathedral.

Archbishop Tutu said he would tell the world to hold back sanctions if the government was prepared to "lift the state of emergency, remove the troops from our townships, release political prisoners and all detainees, unban our political organisations and then sit down with the authentic representatives of every section of our community to negotiate a new constitution for one individed South Africa".

Squatters still struggle

THE future looks bleak for hundreds of squatter refugees who have been homeless since witdoek vigilantes destroyed their homes four months ago.

The refugees have been given until the end of the month to leave churches in the townships, while relief agencies - who have spent millions of rands on the refugees - are re-assessing their role in the area.

Some of the refugees who had left the churches earlier because of lack of privacy and family life at the camps have found that the authorities remain as determined as ever to move them to Khayelitsha.

Recently, a group of squatters have since returned to Nyanga where they now live on an unused soccer field.

A number of new squatter camps have also sprung up throughout Nyanga.

A group of squatters have built a camp on Oscar Mpetha Square, a

few hundred metres away from the house of the 77-year-old veteran trade union leader, who is currently serving a five-year sentence for terrorism.

A few hundred shacks have been built by squatters who used to live only metres away in the now-destroyed Portland Cement Works, Nyanga Bush and Nyanga Extension camps.

Most of the 50 000 people left homeless when the camps were destroyed, have moved in with families or friends in the townships. Some have moved to Khayelitsha where they now live in government-supplied tents.

Relief workers said they could not supply the refugees with food indefinitely. They were now looking at new ways of assisting in the townships. They also said that public contributions for the refugees had stopped, leaving relief agencies to supply everything out of their own pockets.

Trespass laws still alive

THE pass laws may have been scrapped but the trespass laws are very much alive, as six women from Mfuleni township near Stellenbosch found out recently.

The women were taken from their beds where they were sleeping next to their husbands in the single quarter hostels. They were dragged off to court, convicted under the Black Communities Development Act of

1984 and fined between R30 and R50 each.

The women are Tobeka Sitetu, 21; Rosie Mayekiso, 19; Paulina Tsotetsi, 27, (who was taken with her eight-month-old baby); Margaret Booyens, 24; Denise Abrahams, 21; and Nolusapho Tyatyeka, 22 (who is seven-months pregnant).

One woman escaped the raid by running into the bush next to the hostels.

Vendors victory

THE Media Workers Association (MWASA) (Western Cape) and the Allied Publishing Company have signed an agreement which may benefit Cape Town's newspaper vendors.

The agreement covers pay increases and working conditions.

Allied have agreed to give vendors permanent staff status and have increased their basic weekly wage to

R60. Allied will also provide the vendors with protective clothing.

Mwasa started organising the vendors last year. In January, about 200 vendors went on strike for about three weeks. Allied fired them but took them back when community leaders threatened to take action against the company and its parent body, the Argus.

SALDANHA, ATLANTIS, UPINGTON, GRAAF-REINET, BEAUFORT WEST, OUDTSHOORN, GEORGE,

IN the last three years, the struggle for freedom has spread rapidly to every corner of our land.

In many of the Cape's rural areas, as well, people have joined community, youth and workers organisations in their thousands.

Despite vicious repression, the people from some of the country's smallest towns have courageously battled on.

Thousands from places like Graaf-Reinet, Cradock, Oudtshoorn, George, Saldanha and Worcester, to name but a few areas, were detained during the two states of emergency. Many were forced to leave their places and go into hiding.

Grassroots recently visited these areas to see what the real situation is. The stories on the next four pages reflects some of the things we found.



RURAL FOCUS

grassroots special report

UKUSUSELA kwiminyaka emithathu umzabalazo wenkululeko yabantu unwenwe ngokumangalisayo mbombo zonke zeli. Kwindawo ezininzi ezi ngaphandle kweli lase Ntshona-Koloni abantu bajoyine imibutho ngokwamawaka. Nobanjo olukhulu alwenzanga nto koko lubenze abantu bomelela ngokumangalisayo.

Amawaka-waka abantu kwindawo ezinjenge Graaf Reinet, Cradock, Oudtshoorn, George, Saldanha, nase Worcester abantu babanjwe kakhulu phantsi kwemo yonxunguphalo, Abanye basinde ngokuzimela.

UGrassroots utyelele iindawo ezininzi ezingaphandle ngenjongo yokuhlola imeko kwezindawo. Siye safumanisa ukuba imibutho emininzi yonza-kele yimo yonxung uphalo. Kodwa into ecacileyo yeyokuba umoya wabantu nenkolo yabo kumzabalazo azenzekanga nto.

DETAINEES ATLANTIS HOLDS WEEKLY VIGILS

EVERY Wednesday evening, for a period of two hours, thousands of Atlantis residents put off their lights and light up candles in support of those detained under the State of Emergency.

The candle-light vigils started on Wednesday 20 August and has been held weekly since then. Residents light candles from 7.30pm - 9.30pm in protest against the state of emergency, evictions in Atlantis and detentions.

On the first Wednesday, the response was good, with three-quarters of the residents heeding the call made by supporters of the Atlantis Residents Association (ARA) and the Atlantis Youth Congress (AYCO).

About 15 youths, holding lit candles, marched through the streets of Atlantis singing freedom songs. Soon they were joined by more people.

The march ended with an "open-air" gathering outside Dura Flats. At that stage, the group had grown to about 100 people. Some people spoke about the candle-light vigil. One person said that people should not be silenced by the state of emergency.

The ARA thanked the people of Atlantis for their efforts, in a statement to grassroots. They urged people to continue supporting all detainees.

WESKUS AANHOUDINGS VRYGELAAT MAAR NOG STEEDS BEPERK

NADAT die meeste van die meer as 60 aangehoudenes van die Weskus vrygelaat is, is daar baie van hulle wat aangekla, beperk en op voorwaardes vrygelaat is.

Vyf persone almal van Atlantis, is nog steeds in aanhouding in Victor Verster-gevangenis.

Hulle is Noël Williams, vise-voorsitter van cosatu en voorsitter van die Atlantis Residents Association (ARA), William Cloete, sekr. van ARA, Justin de Elende, voorsitter van Atlantis Youth Congress (CAYCO), Andries Meyer en Dexter Pitso, albei van AYCO.

Van die persone wat beperk en op voorwaardes vrygelaat is, is Maxwell Moss, vise-voorsitter van die Saldanha Youth Congress (SAYCO) en

Gert Koenana, voorsitter van Sayco, almal albe van Saldanha.

Elliot de Bruyn, 'n pastoor van die AME Kerk in Saldanha, gaan op 28

Oktober in die landdroshof op Vredenburg op 'n klag van verbode literatuur tereg staan.

Pastoor de Bruyn is ook die vise-voorsitter van die Weskus Raad van Kerke. Sy saak is alreeds op twee vorige geleenthede uitgestel.

Niklaas Beukes, 'n lid van die Vredenburg Youth Congress en student aan die Bellville Onderwys Kollege, gaan ook op dieselfde dag in die hof verskyn op 'n aanklag van ondermynende publikasies.

Agt jongmense van Saldanha, wat nie in aanhou-

ding was nie, en 'n verdere elf jongmense van Layingville in St. Helenabaai, gaan ook dieselfde dag in die hof verskyn op 'n klag van Openbare geweld.

Maxwell Moss is op die eerste September na 82 dae in aanhouding vrygelaat.

Hy was in Paarl Polisie-stasie en daarna in Victor-Verster aangehou.

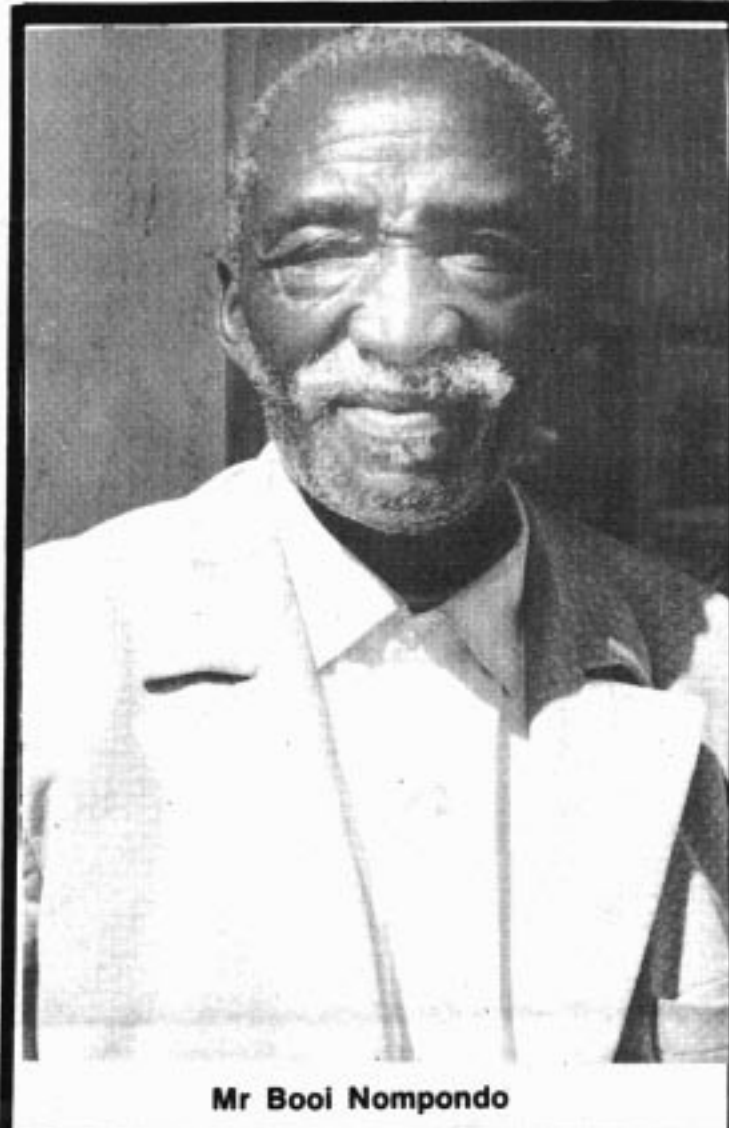
Hy is daarna beperk tot die Saldanha Vredenburg gebied. Hy mag onder geen omstandighede die gebied verlaat nie, tensy hy skriftelike toestemming van die kommissaris van Polisie van die Bolland verkry het.

In Saldanha, Atlantis en in die Weskus is Maxwell wel bekend vir sy dade in die gemeenskap.

Hy is ook 'n baie eerlike en reguit persoon wat ook nie 'n geheim maak van sy teenkating teen apartheid, rassisme en diskriminasie nie.

Gert Koenana, FAWU organiseerder, is ook tot Saldanha en Vredenburg beperk. Dit bemoelik sy werk deurdat hy baie moet beweeg van die een plek na die ander om sy plig as voorsitter uit te kan voer.

Koenana is 'n hoogs gerespekteerde persoon in sy gemeenskap en dien al op die NGS kerk se kerkraad vir die afgelope tien jaar.



Mr Booi Nompondo

Grandfathers released after 3 months

TWO Graaf-Reinet grandfathers, 72-year-old Mr Booi Nompondo and Mr Gbert Hermans, 79, were released from George Prison early in September after being held for almost three months under Emergency Regulations.

The men, who were both detained on June 12, were among more than 800 people from Graaf-Reinet arrested under the emergency.

And while so many of "Graaf's" citizens languished in prison, the white community was making extensive preparations to celebrate the towns 200th anniversary.

Mr Nompondo and Mr Hermans are both executive members of the Graaf-Reinet Residents Association (Grara). Both have been suffering from poor health, especially while they were in prison. What made matters worse, was that they were held at George prison, 380 km from their home.

Predikant 5 dae na moeder se begrafnis aangehou

'n PREDIKANT van die N.G. Sendingkerk op Upington is op 19 Junie, 1986, vyf dae nadat hy sy moeder se begrafnis of Worcester gelei het, gearresteer.

Ds. Adrian Jacobus Beukes was vir meer as 2 maande aangehou en in Augustus vrygelaat voor 'n aansoek vir sy vrylating in die hooggeregshof gehoor is.

In 'n beëdigde verklaring voor die hof het Eerwaarde Beukes die omstandighede van sy aanhouding geskets.

Hy het gesê dat hy nie 'n lid van enige politieke of gemeenskapsorganisasie is nie. Hy het wel in Augustus 1984 as voorsitter by 'n UDF vergadering in Upington opgetree. Die vergadering het heeltemal vreedsaam verloop.

Eerwaarde Beukes verklaar verder: "Op 24 Desember 1985 is ek ingeroep en deur die veiligheids polisie ondervra. Hulle het my daarvan beskuldig dat ek kennis dra van 'n moontlike aanval op die huis van ene Adjunt Offisier Medlar, 'n lid van die veiligheids-polisie. Hierdie beskuldiging is van alle waarheid ontbloot."

Ds. Beukes se moeder wat op Worcester gewoon het is op 8 Junie vanjaar oorlede. Haar begrafnis het op 14 Junie plaasgevind en is deur Ds. Beukes waargeneem.

Ds. Beukes het op 17 Junie na Upington teruggekeer en is op Donderdag 19 Junie gearresteer. Ten tye van reëlins om 'n huwelik die komende naweek op Swellendam is

Ds. Beukes gearresteer. Die aansoek is deur die prokureurs teruggetrek nadat Eerwaarde Beukes vrygelaat was.

BRANDSTIGTING

In Junie het die Oudtshoorn gemeenskap verslae toegekyk hoedat 'n plastiek fabriek in puin gelê word deur 'n brand. Skade van meer as miljoen rand in aangerig.

Vier jeugdige word aangekla van Oudtshoorn en staan tereg op aanklag van sobatasie, met die alternatiewe aanklag van brandstigting. Op 3 September 1986 het hulle in die Paarlse landdroshof verskyn en onskuldig gepleit op die hoofaanklag maar skuldig op die alternatief. Die saak duur voort op 20 Oktober 1986.

Die vier, drie mans en 'n jeugdige, word volgende maand gevonniss.

Seun nie tuis - moeder gearresteer

MEVROU Lucy Dyakala van George was gearresteer deur polisie wat eintlik haar seun gesoek het.

Dit was gesê in papierre voor die Oos-Kaapse hooggeregshof deur haar man, Mnr Matthews Dyakala, wat 'n aansoek aangebring het vir haar vrylating.

Mnr Dyakala sê dat drie polisiemanne in private drag by hul huis opgedaag het om sesuur op die 1ste Julie.

"Een van die polisiemanne het deurgestap na ons slaapkamer (ons huis is klein en ons slaap almal saam in een kamer) en na een van my twee seuns gekyk en gesê: 'Dis nie die

een wat ons soek nie.'

"Een van die polisiemanne, hy was so 'n kortman, het my vrou Lucy toe gevra: 'Nou waar is die ander seun'. Ek het vermoed hy praat van Anton wie se bynaam 'Brother' is.

"My vrou het to geantwoord dat Anton in die Kaap is by my suster aan-

gesien dit skoolvakansie is en het by haar gaan kuier.

"Die polisieman het toe aan my vrou gesê dat sy moes aantrek en saam met hulle gaan. Sy het gevra hoekom sy nou moes saam gaan en die antwoord was dat hulle haar sou hou tot tyd en wyl hulle ons ander seun

kry.

"Hulle het vir my vrou gesê dat sy vir my 'good-bye' moet sê, want sy sou my nie binne 180 dae sien nie.

"Die drie polisiemanne is toe weg saam met my vrou sedert wanneer ek haar nie weer gesien het nie."

Mnr Dyakala het na 'n

paar dae gehoor dat hy kon kos neem na sy vrou by George se polisie-selle. Hy het vermoed dat sy onder die noodregulasies aangehou was.

Mev Dyakala was vrygelaat kort nadat die aansoek vroeg September-maand voor die hof gebring is.

RURAL FOCUS

grassroots special report

Wife of murdered leader determined to struggle on

MORE than a year after the death of her husband Mrs Nombuyiselo Mhlauli of Bongolethu Township in Oudtshoorn is more determined than ever to take forward the struggle for freedom.

Nombuyiselo Mhlauli is the wife of Sicelo Mhlauli who was murdered with Mathew Goniwe, Ford Calata and Sparrow Mkhonto last year. She is 33 years old and has two children, a girl of 10 years and a boy of four years.

During a recent interview with Grassroots she said: "My husband was murdered in June last year with his colleagues Mathew Goniwe, Ford Calata and Sparrow Mkhonto. They were travelling to Cradock from Port Elizabeth. Their killers have not been found and brought

to trial until today. I heard nothing about an inquest.

"It's one year, three months since they were buried on the 28th of July last year. The post-mortem results were that different weapons were used to kill them. I feel bitter that no one has been brought to trial. But I hope one day they will come forward and be tried by the people's court.

"It's very difficult for the children because when they look at their pictures they start asking questions. On the 20th of July this year there was a memorial service for them.

"I told the kids that we are going to a service for their father. The little one said "Is daddy going to be there? I explained to them that we will never see daddy again.

"But I feel very strong and nothing will change my political point of view," she said.



The body of Sicelo Mhlauli is driven from his home to the funeral.

Schoolteacher claims 'I was threatened with death'



Jr 'Koot' Visser (left) and Johnny Bees, Willowmore teachers detained under emergency

A WILLOWMORE schoolteacher has claimed that he was threatened with death at the local police station soon after his detention under the State of Emergency.

This was one of a number of allegations contained in an affidavit which was filed in the Cape Town Supreme court early in September in support of an application for the release of Mr Jakobus Raymond "Koot" Visser.

Mr Visser and a colleague Mr Johnny Henry Bees were both released from George prison after two-and-a-half months in detention.

Applications for their release were withdrawn as they were set free before the applications could be heard.

Both teachers were ar-

rested on 13 June at the Elmore Primary School in Willowmore soon after they arrived at school that morning.

Mr Visser said in his affidavit that he was questioned about the Bekkommerde Gemeenskap Groep (BGG) by a Warrant Officer Fourie.

"Warrant Officer Fourie also accused me of being in possession of handgrenades and that I should take him to go and collect it. I denied any knowledge thereof. He then accused me of being a communist and that I was a strong believer in violence."

Mr Visser said he was again interrogated after being transferred to George Prison on June 18. He said he was asked if he was a member of the

UDF. "I denied being a member but said I was a supporter."

In the affidavit, Mr Visser continues; "I would like to add that I was threatened with death at the police station in Willowmore. One of the police, Warrant Officer

Fourie told me that I knew that they (the police) made people disappear and further said he would cause me to disappear.

He grabbed me by the chin and said he would take me to Graaf-Reinet and then when they are drunk, they would hit me till I talk, then I would disappear."

Thomas MckKay, a UWC student and Basil Luiters, an unemployed man were also released on the same day as the teachers.

The people of Bhongolethu built the Advice Office themselves. The people say it was demolished by the Troops. They did not say why it was demolished.

CLOSE to 2 000 workers, mostly female, went on strike at Sea Harvest fishing factory in Saldanha, which cost the factory a loss of reportedly tens of thousands of rands.

The workers demanded the release from detention of Gert Koenana, Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) full-time organiser. They also wanted a wage increase.

Koenana, who is also chairperson of the Saldanha Youth Congress (SAYCO), was detained on Wednesday June 18, while he was still busy with wage negotiations on behalf of the Sea Harvest workers.

When the night-shift

2000 WORKERS IN PROTEST STRIKE

workers went to work on the day of Koenana's detention, they called for a strike. They continued the strike until the Monday.

Workers at the other factories — three in Saldanha and one each in St Helena Bay, Laai-plek and Stompneus Bay — promised support for the Sea Harvest workers. They all belong to

FAWU. Even though the Sea Harvest workers went

back to work, things were not back to normal. The workers did not allow the bosses to push them for production. On Thursdays the workers refused to work full days.

During the strike, the bosses who normally sit in their offices or walk around with their hands in their pockets, were forced to work with the fish themselves.

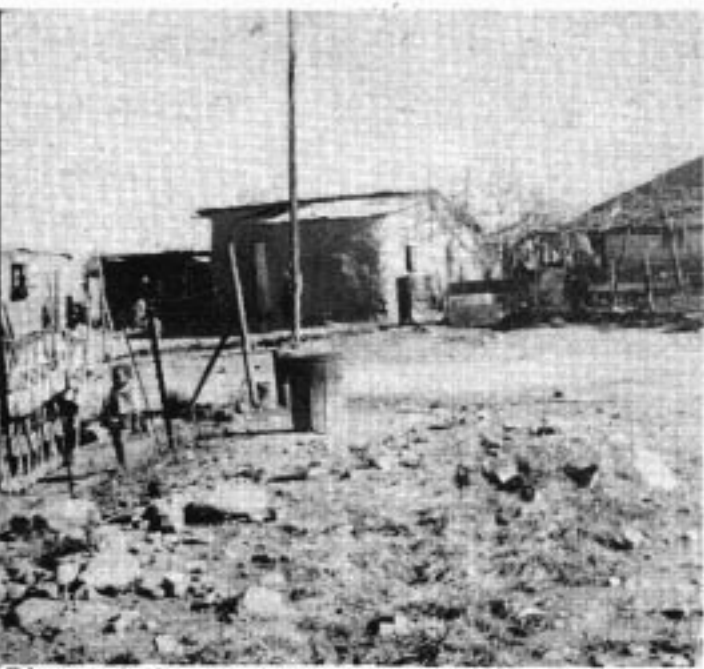
The workers strengthened their unity during the strike. They did not allow

anyone to be victimised by the bosses.

When Koenana was released on August 25, the workers resumed their wage negotiations. The next morning the workers' demands were met and they went back to work as normal.

The workers are still upset that some of the white workers at Sea Harvest, who are police reservists, had apparently been involved in the detention of people in the area.

Some demands met, So Bhongolethu RENT BOYCOTT LIFTED



Bhongolethu Township in Oudtshoorn.

THE residents of Bhongolethu recently decided to lift the rent boycott after most of their demands were met. The community decided to go a rent boycott from last year.

They demanded: Tarrered roads; Street lights Better schools; Std. 9 classes; Recognition of Civic organisation; Better schools; Better houses; Taps for each house; and Troops out of the township.

The Bhongolethu people lifted the rent boycott after most of their demands were met.

One of the residents said: "The authorities are busy building a new school and the old one was renovated.

Recommendation for a

Std 9 class was also made. Before we had up to Std 8 school.

They are also in the process of building new houses and to tarr the roads.

The lights have been repaired and there is water supply throughout the summer.

He said: "It is the troops who are still in the township. They say they are protecting us."

"But there has been more drinking and fighting in the township than before especially during the weekends".

One woman said: "The army will just stand and look if the people are fighting. This never happened when the disciplinary committees could function properly."

DETAINEE WITNESSED TOWNSHIP SHOOTING

A MOSSEL BAY woman claimed she was detained because she had witnessed an Administration Board worker shooting a youth in the township.

Mrs Lilian Martha Malobola, of Kwanonqaba Township, said in an affidavit to the Cape Supreme Court that she was detained by police on June 16 at her house.

Mrs Malobola made an urgent application to the court for her release. She was released shortly after the application was filed.

Mrs Malobola said that Mr M V Micheal James, of the Administration Board, had been with the police at the time of her detention. She said she had made

a statement to the police after Mr James had allegedly shot dead a youth in the township.

"I think that the real reason for my being detained stemmed from me giving the statement to Mr Jordaan (a policeman)," Mrs Malobola said.

Mrs Malobola said that after two weeks in detention, she had been questioned by Mr Coetzee of the Security Police. She was also questioned by Mr Jordaan. She had not been questioned again for about three weeks.

Mrs Malobola said she was concerned about the well-being of her samil son. She did not know if he was being looked after.

ADVICE OFFICE DEMOLISHED

THE Advice Office in Bhongolethu Township in Oudtshoorn was demolished on the 19th of June a week after the State of Emergency was declared.

'Rev must be freed'

DETENTION without trial is nothing new to the Reverend Howard Marawu of Langa.

Rev Marawu, who works for the Transport and General Workers Union as an organiser, was detained on June 12 under Section 50 of the Internal Security Act. The next day he was transferred to detention under the emergency regulations.

He was also detained for five weeks under last

year's state of emergency and restricted on his release. He was not charged with anything.

His wife, Mrs Maria Marawu, said he was the only person in the house who worked. He is 64 years old.

Rev Marawu is well-known and respected in the community — as a union organiser, a priest and as a person.

Detainee loses bid for freedom

THE Supreme Court recently ruled against hospitalised Section 29 detainee, Aziz Kader, whose wife Juwayer applied for his release.

Mrs Kader sought an order declaring her husband's detention unlawful, alternatively restraining police from removing him from Groote Schuur Hospital until the superintendent has certified in writing that he is fully recovered.

Mr Justice A P Burger found that Mrs Kader had failed to

show that any right of the detainee had been infringed.

Mrs Kader had argued that her common law husband's right to mental integrity had clearly been impaired by solitary confinement and prolonged interrogation.

In her affidavit she said a psychiatrist who examined her husband had said he was developing a psychosis similar to that suffered by Dr Neil Aggett before his death in detention.

Mr Kader, 26, a

member of Qibla, was detained at his Athlone home before dawn on June 17.

His wife saw him for the first time for half an hour, on August 20 in a psychiatric ward at Groote Schuur Hospital.

He told her he had been given nothing to eat for the first three days of his detention and had been denied any washing facilities for the first three weeks.

He had been kept in a small cell with the light burning 24 hours a day and he spoke only to his interrogators who questioned him for eight hours twice or thrice a week at first and then once or twice a week.

He had been examined by a psychiatrist at Valkenberg Hospital before being referred to Groote Schuur, his wife said.

Mr M A Albertus, who appeared for Mrs Kader, asked for leave to appeal against the judge's ruling. He said a different decision could be reached by a Full Bench.

He questioned the validity of the detention beyond 30 days.

Leave to appeal was refused. Mrs Kader intends to petition the Chief Justice for leave to appeal.



Mrs Maria Marawu — wife of detainee Rev Marawu

Emergency in 4th month

THE State of emergency is now in its fourth month and many people are still in detention.

Monitoring groups estimate that up to 14 000 people have been detained since the emergency was declared on Thursday June 12. Many people have been in detention since then, without facing any charges.

Close to 300 people have already died in "unrest-related" incidents, according to information given by the government. This figure

may be higher, but the government controls all information and newspapers are not allowed to publish anything without it being sanctioned.

At least 20 people have been restricted on their release from detention under the emergency regulations.

While the emergency is in effect, these people (many of them are trade unionist or UDF leaders) may not be quoted in the media, attend meetings where the government is criticised or contribute to any publications.

Boesak trial postponed

ONE year after being charged with subversion, charges against Dr Allan Boesak have not yet been finalised.

Last week in the Malmesbury Magistrate's Court, the case against Dr Boesak was again postponed to give the state more time to draw up a charge sheet.

Dr Boesak's defence advocate, Mr Sidney Kentridge, SC, opposed the state's application for a postponement to December 8. He said the state had either

"trumped up charges" against Dr Boesak because they had no case at all, or it was "frantically scrabbling around to find a real charge".

Mr Kentridge said it would be an abuse of court procedure to postpone once again the case which had been pending for a year.

Mr W Viljoen of the Attorney General's office, for the State, said the investigations into the charges against Dr Boesak were in pro-

gress. He said the investigations team worked into the night the past three weeks.

He said the case was enormous and documents on it could fill an office and a vault.

The magistrate, Mr A.P. Dippenaar, granted an adjournment until November 28 but ordered that a complete charge sheet be produced. The trial would then probably be moved to the Supreme Court or a regional court.

Dr Boesak was de-

tained under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act last year and charged with subversion for allegedly advocating a school and consumer boycott and disinvestment.

His bail of R20 000 was extended. He may not communicate with state witnesses, propagate boycotts, disinvestment or visit schools.

Mr Kentridge was assisted by Mr Seraj Desai and instructed by Mr Essa Moosa

'Stop torturing Mkhathshwa'

THE South African Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, has issued strict instructions which in effect forbid any member of the security forces from assaulting or torturing Fr Smangaliso Mkhathshwa.

Fr Mkhathshwa, secretary general of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) and one of the leading Catholic clergy in the country, has been in detention without being charged since the start of the state of emergency on June 12.

In papers before a Pretoria Supreme Court judge, Mr le Grange gave a written undertaking that no member of the security forces would be allowed to act against Fr Mkhathshwa in an unlawful way.

The court was in session to hear an urgent application asking for a court order to restrain members of the South African Police Force "from further assaulting, and/or torturing the person of

Fr Mkhathshwa".

The applicant was the SACBC. Mr le Grange was cited as the first respondent. The second respondent was the station commander of the Hercules Police Station.

In a sworn affidavit placed before Mr Justice van der Merwe, Fr Mkhathshwa described the humiliation and methods of interrogation to which he said he was subjected.

He said two unidentified men fetched him from the Hercules Police Station, where he was being held, on August 20.

The men blindfolded and handcuffed him before driving away in a powerful automatic limousine.

In the interrogation room he was ordered to stand dead still and erect. He heard someone pour water into a container. Someone else said: "Don't fill it, you will drown him, man..."

Without any warning someone pulled down his pants and under-pants. His vest was readjusted to

expose his genitals and behind.

Mr Mkhathshwa said numerous questions were put to him by five interrogators. He was not allowed to explain or clarify an issue but was told to answer "yes" or "no".

Describing the methods used during the interrogation, Fr Mkhathshwa said in the affidavit:

- "I was left standing on the same spot for at least 30 hours — the blindfold and handcuffs were always on;
- My genitals and buttocks were left exposed for at least 29 hours;
- A watery substance was smeared on my legs and thighs — this together with the cold air caused much discomfort;
- A creepy creature or instrument was fed into my backside. From there it would move up and down my legs, thighs and invariably ended up biting my genitals. When I cringed with pain they would laugh;

- The interrogation was punctuated by a string of insults, most of which would be too unprintable;
- I was humiliated in other ways".

Fr Mkhathshwa said at some stage he lost all sense of time, distance, orientation or awareness.

Four men escorted him back to the Hercules Police Station. He said he was limping badly because the soles of his feet were painful and his feet were swollen. His eyes could not focus properly for about 90 minutes.

In a written undertaking by First Respondent Mr le Grange, he said he had taken note of Fr Mkhathshwa's allegations.

Without admitting that they were correct, he had given strict instructions that no member of a force as defined in the emergency regulations is allowed to act against Fr Mkhathshwa in an unlawful manner.

He would also see to it, as far as it was in his power, that no one acted unlawfully against Fr Mkhathshwa during his detention.

He had already given instructions that Fr Mkhathshwa's allegations should be investigated. If these allegations were in part or completely correct the necessary steps would be taken against those guilty.

The Minister of Law and Order agreed to pay all legal costs so far.

Members of the public packed the court for the hearing, many of them having to stand.

Top officials from seven embassies were also present, representing Canada, Belgium, Britain, Germany, Australia, France and Sweden.

The incident surrounding Fr Mkhathshwa has unleashed intense international interest, concern and indignation.

An application for his release will go to trial this week.

Book on Zondo planned as 3 guerillas hanged

"WHEN the police came to arrest me, I ran away. I wanted them to shoot me. I wanted to die like a soldier. But they did not shoot . . ."

This is what Andrew Zondo said when he was arrested in December, last year. Less than a year later, on September 19, he was taken to death row and hanged. He was 20 years old when he died.

When Andrew was 15, he travelled from his home in Kwa Mashu to an anti-Republic Day meeting in Durban. There he met a man who later recruited him into the African National Congress. For two years he worked for the ANC, organising a cell in his home town.

When he heard of the SADF raids on Matola, he decided to join Mkhonto we Sizwe. "I got the impression that they knew where the ANC houses were, but they just killed innocent people" Andrew said. "Then I decided I wanted to be a soldier to liberate the black people of South Africa."

Andrew's military training lasted two years. He re-entered South Africa secretly, and began performing acts of sabotage. "Our work went very well. We were very careful about our targets. Our instructions were to avoid taking life, and I insisted on these instructions. Sometimes others got impatient with me."

"Then on December 20, 1985, the SADF attacked our people of Maseru and killed Lesotho civilians. One of the things that made this action so horrible was

'Why I joined the ANC'

that the South Africans did not even admit to their crime. I heard tales of how, in cold blood, they killed people who did not even belong to the ANC."

Andrew was told he should retaliate. He went to Amanzimtoti to check on a government installation. But he found he could not attack it on his own. "Later that day, I was in the Sanlam Centre. I saw people reading the news reports on the Lesotho raid. There was a picture of a woman shot in the raid."

"Then I decided to bomb the centre. The decision I took was racial, because I had seen a lot of white people at the centre. But I decided not to do it. "I knew the people were innocent. I hoped I would not injure them. But I hoped it would bring the government to its senses."

"I took the phone number of the centre. I am sorry I failed to warn the people. What was on my mind was that every day, an average of 3 Africans died from political violence. So I planted the mine."

Andrew was given the death sentence five times

for his part in the Amanzimtoti blast. Two other ANC guerrillas - Clarence Payi and Sipho "Ma-China" Xulu were hanged with him. They were found guilty of murdering Benjamin Langa.

The hanging sparked off a week of school boycotts and stayaways in Durban Townships. A student representative told the press:

"We felt that although what Zondo did may not be part of ANC policy, the repressive nature of this country should be blamed for what he did. It has dehumanised us."

Despite appeals by organisations including the UDF and Amnesty International to PW Botha, the three decided not to "beg for their lives". Lawyers acting for them dropped an urgent application for a stay of execution.

Relatives of the three said they were in good spirits and sang freedom songs in the cells. They said they were prepared to die.

Fatima Meer is presently working on a book about the life of Andrew Zondo. It will probably be published at the end of the year.



A bird's eye view of Site B Khayelitsha which Louis Nel visited with Khayelitsha's "mayor" last week.

Racist sports body rejected

"THEY pretend they want our children to play sport together, but they still support apartheid education and the Group Areas Act. We cannot trust these people and their latest ploy."

This has been the response from nonracial sports players and officials to the proposed "mixed" schools sports organisation.

The initiative has been rejected by the S A Senior Schools' Sports Association (SASSA), an affiliate of the South African Council on Sport

(SACOS). The new body appears to want to challenge the support of the nonracial SASSA, especially at Western Cape schools.

They talk about uniting all South African schools under one roof. But it is doubtful whether the people involved in the new body have such noble intentions and principles.

The president of the mixed sports body is Jan Preyt, who a few years ago did not want "coloured" players to take part in the rugby Craven

week. Has he changed all of a sudden?

Others closely linked are Dougie Dyers and Abe Williams.

Dyers is a national rugby selector and coach for the predominantly-white rugby body.

Williams is the Labour Party's MP for Marmre and was "assistant manager" and window-dresser on the Springbok's rugby tour of New Zealand in 1981.

Nonracial sport officials said the new body should be treated with the contempt is deserved.

Whose mayor?

MANY residents of Guguletu, Langa, Nyanga and Khayelitsha were surprised to see on TV last week that they have their very own "mayor".

Mr Roland Njoli appeared on TV and in the newspapers with Mr Louis Nel, deputy-minister of Information. They went on a visit to Khayelitsha together.

Mr Nel described Mr Njoli as the "mayor of Gugulethu, Langa and Khayelitsha".

Residents spoken to afterwards said they did not know before last week that they had their own Mayor.

"We don't know when and where this man was elected and who he is supposed to represent. Nobody has heard of him. This is another case of the government forcing their own so-called leaders on the people," one woman said.

Man shot dead outside his house

"WHY couldn't they just detain him? Did they have to kill him?"

This was the question of the anguished relative of Thomas Mahlangu, who was shot dead outside his house last week. He had been on the run since the emergency was declared.

According to his cousin, 5 policemen arrived at the house, and asked for Thomas. When he identified himself, they ordered him outside and told his cousin to stay in the house.

A neighbour who was watching from across the road said she saw Thomas turn around and face the house with his hands in the air as though he was going to be searched.

She said there was no sign of a struggle, and Thomas was clearly not trying to run away.

An SA Police Liaison officer said that Mahlangu was shot when trying to escape from the police.

Mahlangu's family reported that they had been seriously harassed by the police while they were looking for Thomas.

On the day the emergency was declared, the entire household, including 2 babies and a 3 year old, were detained for 24 hours and questioned about Thomas's whereabouts.

Initially, the police accused Thomas' uncle of being Thomas, and beat him, breaking one of his fingers.

Earlier this year, the house was damaged by an explosion. The family said that police arrived immediately after the explosion, and asked if anyone had been killed. They then left without making further investigations.

The family said that Thomas had returned home because he was tired of being in hiding, and because he was confident he had done nothing wrong. He was expecting the police to come and was prepared to go with them.

Driver gets R5 000

A BUSDRIVER who worked for City Tramways almost 15 years before he was dismissed has won R5 000 in an out-of-court settlement.

Mr Ronald Manchest and three other workers were retrenched in May. They approached the Legal Resources Centre and took the company to court, claiming unfair dismissal.

In July, a settlement was reached for Mr Charles Hendricks, Mr Tim Martin and Ebrahim Wasserfall. Their severance pay was increased by the company.

Mr Manchest rejected the company offer. He claimed he was entitled to 31 weeks' severance pay - two weeks for each of his 15 and a half years' service.

The court found that the company no longer had a job for him to return to, but the company offered him a settlement almost equal to his claim.

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