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Black nationalists stage bomb attacks

By CHARLES MITCHELL

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -- Black nationalist guerrillas Tuesday blew up two power stations in the Eastern Transvaal Province, blacking out a large area of the country for six hours, and bombed another transformer near Pretoria, police said.

The blasts, in which there were no injuries, coincided with the reopening of a major terrorism trial in Pretoria involving three members of the outlawed African National Congress charged in earlier bombings and attacks in the Eastern Transvaal.

But police refused to link the blasts and the reopening of the trial, saying such a connection 'would only be pure speculation right now.'

The guerrillas struck before dawn at the Camden power station near Ermelo, 155 miles east of Johannesburg, setting off two massive blasts that wrecked two transformers and five generator couplings. A fire at the Camden station burned throughout the day.

Minutes later, at 2:20 a.m., three explosions rocked the Arnott power station near Middleburg, 90 miles northeast of Johannesburg, destroying three transformers and several power pylons.

Another bomb exploded on the outskirts of Pretoria a short time later, wrecking a transformer still under construction.

No one was hurt in the three bomb attacks but damage was expected to run into hundreds of thousands of dollars according to initial estimates by Electricity Supply Commission officials.