



2



Bron nr. 0 3 8 8

Datum 27.10.27.30.0

Onderwerp nr. 15

Knipsel nr. 26644

a

SOWETAN

Jg..... Nr..... P.13 Dat: 27.10.1997

# 'We were behind train violence'

By Sharon Chetty

**T**RUTH AND RECONCILIATION Commission (TRC) investigations are expected to lead to two major revelations: that the security forces were the hidden hand behind past train violence and that African National Congress (ANC) hero Barney Molokoane was betrayed by his comrades.

*Sowetan* understands that a prisoner has made a statement to the TRC, claiming to have been part of a group which orchestrated killings on commuter trains.

It is the first confirmation that the violence was part of a bigger plot to destabilise the country during the period of negotiations and the run-up to the 1994 elections.

The man making the claim is apparently a former member of the ANC's armed wing Umkhonto weSizwe who at some stage became an *askari* (a police informer and double agent). He is believed to be serving a sentence for rape and murder in a prison in Brits.

"Jimmy Mbane" is one of the names he has used, and while living in Zimbabwe (his father is from there) he apparently killed an MK man in Bulawayo.

He was later arrested in Botswana, detained in Zeerust and was kept in prison in Kimberley.

According to sources close to the investigation, the man has said that he was part of a covert police unit headed by a policeman named "Pretorius", which deliberately set out to cause chaos.

They allegedly used a house in an area south of Johannesburg as their base.

## TRC investigations reveal that former MK cadres betrayed mates

Although the TRC was last week unable to confirm the probe, one of its investigators said that the man's statement was expected to eventually show that the former government's dirty tricks departments definitely orchestrated the numerous killings on trains.

In another major investigation, it has been found that a group of once-celebrated MK guerrillas were "sold out" by their fellow comrades while carrying out one of the more daring missions of the movement's armed struggle.

Barney Molokoane, Victor Khayiyana and Vincent Sekete launched a missile attack on the Sasol synthetic fuel plant in Secunda in November 1985. It was their second strike against Sasol as they had already successfully attacked the plant five years before.

### Double-crossed

Based in MK military camps in the Frontline states, they had infiltrated the country specifically to carry out that task and were to have fled to Swaziland via the border near Piet Retief.

But the three were apparently double-crossed and the police were alerted to their escape plans and lay in wait to ambush them.

Police units from three towns - Piet Retief, Ermelo and Middelburg - had converged on the Houtkop area just outside Piet Retief to ensure that Molokoane, Khayiyana and Sekete

would not escape the trap.

At the time the police claimed that the men had been killed in a shootout with policemen who were doing routine patrols in the area, but it was never explained why policemen stationed as far as 200km away were patrolling the road to the Swazi border that night.

Police then buried the men in incorrectly marked graves in the cemetery at eThandakukhanya township in Piet Retief.

Now it has emerged that security branch policemen were fully aware of the MK operatives' presence in the country because there was an informer in their ranks.

The three belonged to MK's elite special operations unit and besides Sasol, their other accomplishments included an attack on the Voortrekkerhoogte military base.

They reported directly to then ANC president Oliver Tambo and had the sanction of the late Joe Slovo.

Molokoane was widely respected for his prowess as a soldier, and MK members who served in the camps with him say that had he survived, he would have succeeded the late Chris Hani as MK chief of staff.

He was so revered that songs of praise were sang in his honour.

A TRC investigator, Captain Fanie Molapo, said he was unable to reveal the full details of the investigation as it was "still at a sensitive stage."

He did, however, confirm that the investigation might lead to high rank-

TREFWOORDE

Chetty, Sharon

Kommissie vir

Waarheid

Ondersoek

Authentiese

Veiligheids-

magte

Geweldpleging

Tranvervoer

Umkhonto we

Sizwe

Vertaalers

Helde

# INSTITUUT VIR EIETYDSE GESKIEDENIS

Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat



Bron nr.  
0 3 8 8

Datum  
27.10.27.300

Onderwerp nr.  
15

Kripsel nr.  
266/14 b

**SOWETAN**

Jg..... Nr..... P. 13 Dat: 27.10.1997

ing MK men who may now be serving in the South African National Defence Force.

"We cannot say anything ... it might end up with someone being arrested and charged," he said, implying that the person or persons implicated may not have applied for amnesty in this case.

Some of the new information has been revealed by former security branch policemen who have applied to the TRC for amnesty relating to the case.

Among them are a Frederick Pienaar and Cornelius Botha, who were well known for their vigorous protection of the Swazi border against MK infiltration.

They have also asked for amnesty in relation to another ambush of MK operatives in June 1988, also at the Swazi border.

In that incident - they then had the help of Eugene de Kock and his men from Vlakplaas - an unarmed man and

three women were killed after they were led into a trap by an informer.

The four were shot (although the police claimed they were attacked first). Makarov pistols and AK-47s were planted on them.

A week later another five operatives were led into a similar trap and killed.

Adriaan Vlok, then police minister, used the incident as an opportune propaganda exercise.

Although the first killings happened around June 8, he waited until the eve of June 16 to announce that "terrorists" who were coming in to "cause chaos" to mark the day had been stopped at the border.

By the time the operatives' families had identified them, their bodies were so badly decomposed that they had to be buried in sealed coffins.

Now the car in which the first group was killed has been found - it had been hidden in the undergrowth at the back of the Piet Retief police station.

## TREFWOORDE

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....
- 7 .....
- 8 .....
- 9 .....
- 10 .....